

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXVII.—NEW SERIES, No. 1109.] LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13, 1867. PRICE {UNSTAMPED.. 5d.
{STAMPED..... 6d.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING will be held (p.v.) in EXETER HALL, on TUESDAY EVENING 19th February, 1867. The Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., will preside, and will be supported by the Rev. J. W. Reeve, A.M., Minister of Portman Chapel; the Rev. John Cumming, D.D., National Scotch Church; the Rev. William Brook, of Bloomsbury; and the Rev. Samuel Martin, of Westminster. The Lord Bishop of Ripon and other friends of the Association have intimated their intention to be present, if possible.

The doors will be opened at Seven, and the Meeting will commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

Tickets may be had of Messrs.

James Nisbet and Co., Berners-street, Oxford-street.
Bull's Library, 52, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square.
Dalton, Cockspur-street.
Westerton, Knightsbridge.
Waters, 97, Westbourne-grove.
Boddington's Library, Notting-hill-gate.
Warren Hall and Co., 10, Cambridge-terrace, Camden-road.
Burdekin, 97, Upper-street, Islington.
Alvey, 67, Newington-cuseway.
The Book Society, 24, Paternoster-row.
Williams and Lloyd, 29, Moorgate-street.
Bennett, 4, Bishop-gate street Without.
And at the Offices of the Association, 165, Aldersgate-street, City.

W. EDWYN SHIPTON, Secretary.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, MAITLAND-PARK, HAVERSTOCK HILL.

Instituted May 10, 1758.

For Children of both Sexes and from any part of the Kingdom.

Under the immediate Patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN, and their Royal Highnesses the PRINCE and PRINCESS OF WALES.

At the 169th ANNUAL GENERAL COURT of GOVERNORS held at the LONDON TAVERN on THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, for the election of 40 Orphan Children out of a list of 166 Candidates, JOHN REMINGTON MILLS, Esq., M.P., President, in the chair.

At the close of the ballot, the following were declared to be successful:—

GIRLS.		
1. Engisch, Ellen	361	9. Westcott, M. Ann..... 259
2. Dukes, Louisa	343	10. Lowry, Martha S..... 257
3. Newall, S. Grace..... 344		11. Bacon, Sarah N..... 250
4. Jones, Emily M. J..... 326		12. Heath, Isabella..... 250
5. Roberts, Alice..... 294		13. Batty, M. A. V..... 249
6. Lea, Elizabeth..... 279		14. Feist, Mary Anne..... 247
7. Cooper, E. Harriet..... 274		15. Weldon, M. Ann..... 239
8. Tucker, Hannah..... 272		
BOYS.		
16. Skirrow, John T..... 374		29. Jefferies, F. D..... 265
17. Sandford, F. Wm..... 324		30. Lambert, Alfred..... 259
18. Gill, John Martin..... 311		31. Skilton, Walter T..... 256
19. Ellis, Frank..... 308		32. Howe, John..... 251
20. Austin, H. Robert..... 294		33. Prosser, S. E..... 250
21. Munson, Henry..... 292		34. Woods, William E..... 250
22. Mills, Charles..... 284		35. McGregor, H. S..... 249
23. Laphorn, Henry..... 280		36. Hurley, W. L. E..... 247
24. Wellman, A..... 275		37. Gunston, Fred. M..... 245
25. Jenner, George..... 273		38. Palmer, F. Alexander..... 244
26. Wright, F. George..... 269		39. Bolton, George..... 241
27. Shaw, John..... 266		40. Martin, Benjamin S..... 232
28. Craven, John B..... 266		

Resolved unanimously,—"That the best thanks of this meeting be presented to John Remington Mills, Esq., M.P., the President, for presiding this day, and to the Secretaries for their care in taking the ballot."

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

56, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

FORTY ORPHANS will be again elected in July. Forms to fill up may be obtained on application.

Life Subscription of a Governor, 10l. 10s. and upwards; of a Subscriber, 5l. 5s.; annual subscription of a Governor, 1l. 1s. and upwards; of a Subscriber, 10s. 6d.; the Votes increasing with the amount contributed.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL.

361 poor Orphans are now in the Schools.
80 admitted annually.
20 were received whose parents died of cholera last year.
2,385 have been admitted.

CONTRIBUTIONS are earnestly solicited to meet the extra expenses of the 20 cholera orphans, as well as for the general objects of the Charity, and will be thankfully received by

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

Office, 56, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, MAITLAND-PARK, HAVERSTOCK HILL, N.W.

PATRONS:
Her Majesty the QUEEN and their R.H. the PRINCE and PRINCESS OF WALES.

The 169th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL of the Charity will take place on the 12th March.

The Right Hon. G. J. GOSCHEN, M.P., will preside.
The names of Gentlemen for the first List of Stewards, which will be published shortly, are respectfully requested.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

56, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

Tickets for Ladies and Gentlemen may be obtained at the office as above.

SEARCH—Ten-Guinea Prize Essay—"Vox ab illa uxore matreque." Five-Guinea Prize, "Suggest."

Writers of the many other admirable Essays received are requested to communicate speedily for the sale or return of their MSS.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION for STOPPING the SALE of INTOXICATING LIQUORS on SUNDAY.

Office—43, Market-street, Manchester.
PRESIDENT—THOMAS CLEGG, Esq., Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

The Executive desire to call immediate attention to the Conference Report, already issued. Full information may be obtained by applying to the

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES,
Mr. Edwin Barton, 43, Market-street, Manchester.
Mr. Oliver Garrett, Greenhays Hall, Manchester.

Contributions to the fund necessary to prosecute the work of this Association are earnestly requested from all friends of the cause, and may be paid to the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, Spring-gardens, Manchester.

The Rev. JOHN GARRETT, D.D., Secretaries, 43, Market-street, Manchester.
ROBERT WHITWORTH, Esq., street, Manchester.

RICHARD HAWORTH, Esq., Treasurer, 32, High-street, Manchester.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.—NEW ROUTE

between MANCHESTER and the MIDLAND COUNTIES, and LONDON, through the Peak District and Matlock. The Midland Railway Company's Direct Route to and from Manchester, was OPENED for TRAFFIC on FRIDAY, February 1st. Trains run between Derby and Manchester, in connection with Trains to and from the whole of the Midland System.

Through Carriages between Manchester and London by all direct Trains.
For Particulars of Trains, see Time-tables for February, issued by the Company.

JAMES ALLPORT, General Manager.
Derby, Jan., 1867.

THE HOSPITAL for SICK CHILDREN,

48 and 49, GREAT ORMOND-STREET, W.C.
PATRON—Her Majesty the QUEEN.

This Hospital has recently been enlarged to receive 75 in-patients, and it affords advice and medicine weekly to 1,200 out-patients.

The Committee very earnestly solicit CONTRIBUTIONS.

BANKERS,
Williams, Deacon, and Co.; Messrs. Hoare; Messrs. Herries.
Jan., 1867. F. H. DICKINSON, Chairman.
SAML. WHITFORD, Secretary.

WANTED, to RENT or PURCHASE, in

Bucks, Beds, Herts, or an adjoining County, a comfortable FAMILY RESIDENCE, with from Twenty to Forty acres of land, where there are Nonconformist privileges.

Address, Mr. Green, Post Office, Dunstable, Beds.

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MAN of good education, character, and respectability, a SITUATION with a good practical and experienced Farmer, with whom he could get a further knowledge of the business. He has had two years' experience, and would endeavour to make his services of value to one who has a large occupancy, or who has an outlying farm, the subordinate management of which he would undertake. Age nineteen. High testimonials.

Apply, N. N., Post-office, Market Harborough.

TWENTY-FOUR VOLS. of the NONCON-

FORMIST for SALE, seventeen of which are half-bound, the others complete, though unbound. A Lady wishes to dispose of them at any fair price.

Address, S. W., 57, Finchley-road, London, N.W.

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Home comforts. Superior educational advantages. Moderate Terms. Prospectuses and References from the Rev. E. Webster, M.R.C.P., Principal.

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Conducted by MISS PUTTICK.
References to the Principal of the Edinburgh University, the Parents of Pupils, and to numerous Ministers, &c.
Terms on application.

EDUCATION.

ACKENDER HOUSE SCHOOL, ALTON, HANTS.

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This Establishment combines all the elements of a good School—namely, thoroughly efficient teaching, sound moral and religious training, liberal treatment, extremely healthy position, and very moderate terms.

Prospectus on application to the Principal. References permitted to former pupils and to Parents of present Pupils.

SIX PORTRAITS, 1s. 8d.; Twelve, 2s. 8d.;

Post-free. Send Portrait and Stamps. Perfect copies with original carefully returned.—Cards enlarged to 10 by 8 inches, 7s. 6d.; other Pictures, 1s. extra. CITY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY, 18, Queen-street, Cheapside, London.

NEW CARTES of the QUEEN, Princess

Wales, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, &c. Also Cartes of Palmerston, Gladstone, Russell, Stuart Mill, Bright, Cobden, Saml. Morley, Ed. Miall, Derby, Disraeli, Stanley, Tennyson, Dickens, Carlyle, Longfellow, Browning, and Dr. Mary Walker. 1s. each, free for 13 stamps. Portraits taken daily. FRED. JONES, 146, OXFORD-STREET, LONDON.

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GRAPHY.—Phonography is taught in Class, at 7s. 6d. or Private Instruction given, personally or by post, for £1 1s. the Perfect Course of Lessons.
London; 20, Paternoster-row, E.C.

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MIDLAND COUNTIES PROPRIETARY SCHOOL COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD MASTER: Rev. ROBERT HALLEY, M.A.
SECOND MASTER: EDWARD STEANE JACKSON, Esq., M.A.

TERMS:
For Pupils entering under 14 years of age, 50 guineas.
For Pupils entering above 14 years of age, 60 guineas.
The Next TERM will COMMENCE on the 25th JANUARY, by which time the New Buildings will probably be completed. A part of them are already occupied.

LEOTARD; or, "THE AUTOMATON!"

"WHO, or WHICH?"
The enigma variously solved by the Visitors at the Royal Polytechnic, who can see this wonder on the Trapeze, daily at Three and Nine o'clock.

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37, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury, W.C.

BEDS from 1s. 6d.; PLAIN BREAKFAST or TEA, 1s. 3d.

The above house is well and centrally situated. There is a spacious Coffee-room overlooking the Square; it is within Five Minutes' Walk of Holborn, and near the Inns of Court, British Museum, St. Paul's, &c.; and admirably suited for Parties, either on pleasure or business.

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BOOKS, and every requisite for the Counting-house. Qualities and prices will compare advantageously with any house in the trade. The Forms and Account Books required under "The Companies' Act, 1862," kept in stock. Share Certificates Engraved and Printed. Official seals Designed and Executed.—ASH and FLINT, 49, Fleet-street, City, E.C., and opposite the Railway Stations, London-bridge, S.E.

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An immediate answer to the inquiry, and a Specimen BOOK of TYPES, with information for Authors, may be obtained on application to

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Money obtained to any amount on Freehold or Leasehold Securities.

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MODERATE RATES of Premiums—especially for young lives. BONUS have been declared in 1860, 1863, and 1866. POLICIES made payable during lifetime.

INVALID AND SECOND-CLASS LIVES insured on a new principle.

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4, QUEEN-STREET-PLACE, SOUTHWARK BRIDGE, E.C.

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The London and Westminster Bank (London Bridge.)

PHYSICIAN.
William Munk, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London), 40, Finsbury-square.

SURGEON.
Thomas Carr Jackson, Esq. (Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Surgeon to the Great Northern Hospital), 8, Weymouth-street, Portland-place.

Accumulated Fund, £110,000.
The Accumulated Fund is equal to about 50 per cent. of the entire premiums received on policies in force on December 31 last.



THE LIFE INVESTMENT, MORTGAGE, AND ASSURANCE COMPANY (Limited).

Established March 3, 1864.

Capital, 500,000l. in 5l. shares; 2l. paid. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum guaranteed, with a bonus every three years.

Chief Offices: 8, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London, E. C.

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Captain W. G. Coventry, Bar's Croome Court, Worcester-shire, Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Worcester.**DIRECTORS.**Bridgman, J. H., Esq., 30, Arundel-gardens, Kensington-park, W., and Dorsetshire.
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Gold, Nicholas C., Esq., 1, Serjeant's-inn, Chancery-lane, and 11, Ormond-terrace, Regent's-park.
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Nash, Edmund, Esq., Royston-lodge, Ladbroke-grove, Kensington-park, W.
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Thomas, David, D.D., Stockwell, and Loughborough-park, Brixton, S.**1.—LIFE POLICIES.**—These will be payable before death without extra premium. By this peculiar system an annuity can be granted to the widow, and the sum assured paid to the children at her death; or should the assured live to a certain age, he can receive the amount assured by his policy, or an annuity during his life, and at his death the amount in full will be paid to his family; or he can have an annuity of from 5 to 14 per cent. in this manner he will be enabled to provide for his own comfort in old age, and protect his family should he be prematurely removed.**2.—MINISTERIAL ASSURANCES.**—This is an especial system, expressly introduced for the benefit of aged ministers or their widows. While secure for the office, it gives the minister of religion advantages never before conceded, but which this office will fully develop in a manner peculiar and valuable.**3.—BUILDING POLICIES.**—These policies combining all the advantages usually offered by life assurance companies, building societies, and investment associations, without extra charge. At the same time (by a system never before fully developed in this country), many inconveniences inseparably connected with the existing methods of conducting such organizations are avoided.

Sums above 50l. can be deposited in the Company for any length of time in the following order:—

If for six months, interest at the rate of 4 per cent. will be paid.

If for twelve months, interest at the rate of 5 per cent. will be paid.

And for any period above one year, 6 per cent. per annum. The depositor being allowed to withdraw the amount by giving twenty-one days' notice.

EDWIN YELLAND, Esq., Manager.

Agents required in unrepresented towns.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL—1,975,000l., in 37,500 Shares of 50l. each.
PAID-UP CAPITAL—750,000l. RESERVE FUND—250,000l.**DIRECTORS.**Nathaniel Alexander, Esq.
John Edmund Anderson, Esq.
Thos. Tyringham Bernard, Esq.
Philip Patton Blyth, Esq.
John William Burmester, Esq.
Colles Child, Esq.
Hugh C. E. Childers, Esq., M.P.
John Fleming, Esq.
Edward W. T. Hamilton, Esq., M.P.
Frederick Harrison, Esq.
William Champion Jones, Esq.
William Nicol, Esq.**TRUSTEES.**P. P. Blyth, Esq. | J. W. Burmester, Esq.
W. Champion Jones, Esq.**AUDITORS.**

William Norman, Esq. | Richard H. Swaine, Esq.

GENERAL MANAGER.

William McKewan, Esq.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER.

William Howard, Esq.

CHIEF INSPECTOR.

W. J. Norfolk, Esq.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT.

James Gray, Esq.

INSPECTORS OF BRANCHES.

H. J. Lemon, Esq., and O. Sherring, Esq.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Wilkinson and Co.

SECRETARY.

F. Clappison, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE, 21, LOMBARD STREET.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Proprietors, held on Thursday, the 7th February, 1867, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, the following Report for the Year ending the 31st December, 1866, was read by the Secretary.

HUGH C. E. CHILDERS, Esq., M.P., in the Chair.

REPORT.

The Directors, in submitting to the Proprietors the Balance Sheet of the Bank for the Half-year ending the 31st December last, have the pleasure to report that, after paying all Charges, and interest to Customers, and making ample provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts, the Net Profit amount to 101,998l. 15s. This added to 17,468l. 16s. 6d., brought forward from the last Account, produces a total of 119,467l. 11s. 6d.

They recommend the payment of the usual Dividend of 6 per Cent. together with a Bonus of 8 per Cent. for the Half-year, both free of Income Tax, which will absorb 105,000l., and leave 14,467l. 11s. 6d. to be carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account. The Dividend for the whole year 1866 will thus be 12 per Cent.

At the Meeting in February, 1866, it was intimated to the Proprietors that the Directors proposed to increase the Capital of the Bank, and at the Meeting in August, 1866, the Proprietors, by a Resolution, adopted the recommendation of the Directors. It will be proposed to act upon this Resolution (which will require formal confirmation) by the issue of 15,000 new Shares, to be offered pro rata amongst the Proprietors as they appeared on the Register on the 4th instant, the date when the Transfer Books of the Company were closed, such Shares to be issued at the price of 40l. each, being a premium of 30l. per Share. The total number of Shares will then be 50,000. Full particulars of the issue will be transmitted by Circular to each Proprietor.

The Directors have to announce the retirement of Edward J. Hutchins, Esq., and William Lee, Esq., M.P., from the Direction, and the election of Hugh C. E. Childers, Esq.,

M.P., and Edward W. T. Hamilton, Esq., M.P., in their stead.

The Directors retiring by rotation are—Nathaniel Alexander, Esq., Thos. Tyringham Bernard, Esq., and William Nicol, Esq., who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

There is a vacancy in the Auditorship, through the disqualification of Mr. Robert Escombe, and it is in the power of the Meeting to fill this up.

The Dividend and Bonus (together 21. 16s. per Share) free of Income Tax, will be payable at the Head Office, or at any of the Branches, on and after Monday, the 18th instant.

BALANCE SHEET

Of the London and County Banking Company, 31st December, 1866.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital paid up				750,000	0	0
Reserve Fund				250,000	0	0
Amount due by the Bank for Customers' Balances, &c.	12,057,000	12	8			
Liabilities on Acceptances	1,680,761	9	2			
				13,637,762	1	10
Profit and Loss Balance brought from last Account	17,468	16	6			
Gross Profit for the Half-year, after making provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	819,957	14	9			
				337,426	11	8
				£14,975,188	13	1

Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash on hand at Head Office and Branches	1,767,383	3	8			
Cash placed at Call and at Notice	734,058	3	7			
				2,501,439	6	10
Investments, viz.:— Government and Guaranteed Stocks	695,953	0	6			
Other Stocks and Securities	101,899	12	9			
				797,852	13	8
Discounted Bills and Advances to Customers in Town and Country				11,806,492	2	8
Freehold Premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, Freehold and Leasehold Property at the Branches, with Fixtures and Fittings				176,813	12	8
Interest paid to Customers				98,277	5	11
Salaries and all other Expenses at Head Office and Branches, including Income Tax on Profits and Salaries				99,813	11	9
				£14,975,188	13	1

Profit and Loss Account.

	£	s.	d.
To Interest paid to Customers	98,277	5	11
Expenses, as above	99,813	11	9
Rebate on Bills not due, carried to New Account	34,858	2	1
Dividend of 6 per Cent. for the Half-year	45,000	0	0
Bonus of 8 per Cent.	90,000	0	0
Balance carried forward	14,467	11	6
	£337,426	11	8

	£	s.	d.
By Balance brought forward from last Account	17,468	16	6
Gross Profit for the Half-year, after making provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	819,957	14	9
	£337,426	11	8

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing Balance Sheet, and have found the same to be correct.

(Signed) WILLIAM NORMAN, } Auditors.
B. H. SWAINE, }London and County Bank.
31st January, 1867.

The foregoing Report having been read by the Secretary, the following Resolutions were proposed and unanimously adopted:—

1. That the Report be received and adopted, and printed for the use of the Shareholders.
2. That a Dividend of 6 per Cent., together with a Bonus of 8 per Cent., both free of Income Tax, be declared for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1866, payable on and after Monday, the 18th instant, and that the balance of 14,467l. 11s. 6d. be carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account.
3. That William Nicol, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company. That Thos. Tyringham Bernard, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company. That Nathaniel Alexander, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company.
4. That William Norman and Richard Hinds Swaine, Esqs., be elected Auditors for the current year.
5. That Frederick Francis, Esq., be elected an Auditor for the current year.
6. That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Board of Directors for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company.
7. That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to William Norman and B. H. Swaine, Esqs., the Auditors of the Company, for their services during the past year.
8. That the thanks of the Meeting be presented to William McKewan, Esq., and to the principal and other Officers of the Bank, for the zeal and ability with which they have discharged their respective duties.

(Signed) HUGH C. E. CHILDERS, Chairman

The Chairman having quitted the Chair, it was resolved, and carried unanimously—

9. That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be presented to Hugh C. E. Childers, Esq., M.P., for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair.

(Signed) W. CHAMPION JONES, Deputy-Chairman.

Extracted from the Minutes.

(Signed) F. CLAPPISON, Secretary.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Dividend on the Capital of the Company, at the rate of Six per Cent. for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1866, with a Bonus of Eight per Cent., will be paid to the Proprietors, either at the Head Office, 21, Lombard-street, or at any of the Company's Branch Banks, on and after Monday, the 18th instant.

By order of the Board,
WM. MCKEWAN, General Manager.

21, Lombard-street, Feb. 8, 1867.

CRAMER'S GUINEA MUSICAL SUBSCRIPTION

entitles Subscribers to select and retain as their own property FIVE GUINEAS' WORTH of their SHEET MUSIC calculated at the marked price.—Prospectuses can be had, or forwarded on application.

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CHAPPELL AND CO.'S THREE-YEARS' SYSTEM OF HIRE AND PURCHASE OF HARMONIUMS.**CHAPPELL AND CO. LET ON HIRE** all the best ALEXANDRE HARMONIUMS for three years certain (by quarterly payments in advance), after which the instrument becomes the property of the hirer. A Three-Stop, price 16l. 16s., or 1l. 11s. 6d. per quarter for three years. A Six-Stop, price twenty-two guineas, or 2l. 2s. a quarter. A Ten-Stop, price twenty-six guineas, or 2l. 12s. 6d. a quarter. And all other Instruments by this celebrated maker in a like proportion. Lists on application to Chappell and Co., 50, New Bond-street.**ALEXANDRE HARMONIUMS, on the Three Years' System of Hire and Purchase.**

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Easy to operate, simple to learn, and not liable to derangement. They Tuck, Hem, Fell, Gather, Cord, Quilt, Braid, and Embroider.

Sews with equal ease on any thickness of material, from two ordinary reels; requires no re-winding; and the seam is out at every inch will not rip.

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXVII.—NEW SERIES, No. 1109.]

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Eccliaetical Affairs.

ANOTHER ANNUITY-TAX ABOLITION BILL.

A BILL which bears upon it the honoured names of M'Laren, Dunlop, and Baines, is sure to command our respectful and confiding attention. A Bill, moreover, the object of which is to abolish the Annuity-tax in the parish of Canongate within Edinburgh, addresses itself as powerfully to our sympathies as one for the abolition of Church-rates. We have strong historical associations with the gallant resistance which has been made to the impost. We cherish a reverential recollection of Dr. John Brown, and of his magnificent work on "Civil Obedience." We admiringly and affectionately revert to the memory of many a sufferer for the truth's sake, not the least among whom was Thomas Russell. We recall with a glow of grateful satisfaction the splendid and eloquent tributes which Edinburgh worthies have paid to the principle of Christian willinghood, and the stern protests they have recorded against compulsory taxation for religious purposes. It was at the fire which first burned upon the altars of Scottish Nonconformity, that we lighted our own torch, and anything which concerns religious freedom in Scotland instantly attracts our notice and engages our liveliest interest. This Bill, therefore, so influentially endorsed, could not fail of eliciting our profound curiosity, and, unless we are mistaken, our readers will deem it an acceptable service that we should, at the earliest possible period, put them into possession of its general contents.

The measure is thus authentically described on the back of it—"A Bill to abolish the Annuity Tax, or Ministers' Money, in the parish of Canongate within Edinburgh, and to make provision in regard to the stipends of the ministers in that parish and city." We have learnt the wisdom of refraining from pronouncing an off-hand judgment upon what seems, at first glance, at variance with first principles. If this measure had borne the name of the Lord Advocate of Scotland, if it had professed to embody the views of the Kirk, if it had been put forward as a mode of settlement which waited only the assent of the Edinburgh Voluntaries to be carried into effect, we might perhaps have read this descriptive title without any violent revulsion of feeling. We honestly confess, however, to some slight surprise at seeing the latter half of the title of this Bill, considering that the measure represents the objects of Voluntarism. There is, at first blush, somewhat of incongruity in the idea of men who sat at the feet of the late Dr. John Brown, and grasped hands of fellowship with Thomas Russell, going before the Legislature, and asking it to "make provision in regard

to the stipends of the ministers in the city of Edinburgh." Justice, of course, is justice—and our first impression was that the Bill, as it ought, secured the life-interests of the existing clergy. When we discovered our mistake, and found that the stipends referred to were to continue *in perpetuo*, we could not help asking ourselves, What have the members of the United Presbyterian Church, for instance, to do with providing by Act of Parliament for the temporal maintenance of the ministers of another Church. They would scorn to do it for themselves. They would regard it as a shameful violation of a sacred principle. Why should they proffer their service in obtaining it for others? Why should they step forth to act on behalf of others in a matter which in relation to themselves they would consider a dishonour done to their religious profession? These were our first thoughts—but, as we have said, experience has taught us to hold first thoughts in suspense until we have heard all that can be said on the other side of the question. Circumstances alter cases—and although they cannot change the nature of principles, they may justify a varied application of them.

Well, the Bill, by its first enacting clause, abolishes the Annuity-tax from the 2nd of February, 1868. It does so effectually. It says that from that date it "shall cease to be imposed or levied." Should the measure be passed into law, that ecclesiastical nuisance will be for ever removed. Compulsion, in a direct and legal shape, will thenceforth cease to be employed for the sustentation of Gospel ministers in Edinburgh. The scandal will determine. The stain of infamy will be effaced. The reproach to Christianity will be no longer available. That is, at any rate, a most desirable result—a result worth purchasing at any sacrifice but that of principle, for which alone, indeed, is any sacrifice required. The Bill, of course, could not well stop here. The dentist who draws an unsound tooth, is fairly expected to adjust and soothe the lacerated gum. We should have anticipated a clause saving all existing life-interests—but here there is something more, and what that is we will as shortly as possible describe.

The Pew-rents of the fourteen City Churches (including Canongate) are to be so fixed by the Commissioners (Vist. 24-5, c. 50, sec. 6) as to produce a total amount of not less than 4,000*l.* annually, and not more in any one year than 7,539*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, the amount yielded by the thirteen City churches in the year 1832—and the produce of seat-rents within this minimum and maximum is to be paid over by the Kirk sessions to the Commissioners free of all deductions whatever. This annual produce, together with 2,000*l.* now payable annually to the Commissioners by her Majesty's Remembrancer, and Exchequer Auditor, and certain rents derived from cellars and vaults underneath some of the City churches, and few duties on ground on which a church formerly stood, and the interest yielded by the endowment of that demolished church, are to constitute a stipend fund for the ministers of the City churches and Canongate. All ministers entitled to a share of the Annuity-tax at the time of the passing of the Bill, will receive their full stipend from the fund thus created during the term of their natural life. But the sum payable by the City to the Commissioners, which is now fixed by the above cited Act at 4,200*l.* a year, is after Feb. 2, 1867, to be fixed at 2,000*l.*, and to decrease with the death or removal of any one of the eight ministers now officiating in the ancient royalty of the city—and after three deaths among the City ministers, and two in Canongate, the pecuniary obligation of the Edinburgh magistrates and council, in respect of the Annuity-tax, is to cease, and the ministers be maintained, or not, out of the permanent stipend fund, as the Commissioners may determine, and the amount at their disposal may admit of. The remaining provisions of the Bill,

which are rather elaborate and complicated, and which relate to the mode in which the whole arrangement is to take effect, would have no interest for our readers—they are essentially local and incidental.

Now we cannot with certainty put our finger upon any of the enactments of this measure, and say, "Here is the Annuity-tax under another name." Of one of the items we have our doubts, but we are unwilling to speak of it without fuller information. Our present impression is that the Bill may receive the support of English Voluntaries. But we honestly avow our regret that it should have been put forward by Scotch Nonconformists. It might have come gracefully enough from the ranks of their opponents, as a fair settlement of the controversy from their point of view. As it is, we do not believe it has the least chance of passing, and it certainly exhibits the repudiators of the State-Church principle in a somewhat unintelligible light. At any rate, it is not a clear protest against the error and the wrong which it seeks to put an end to.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

We print in another column a letter on the Italian Church question, addressed to us by Sir George Bowyer, M.P. Few Englishmen should know more of Italian politics than the writer of this letter, but when we remember Sir George's speeches in Parliament on Italian questions generally, we feel some hesitation in accepting him as an authority. Indeed, we should say that, in our judgment, he is a very bad authority. It will be remarked that Sir George Bowyer's statements resolve themselves very much into the question of his own belief. "I am convinced," "I believe," "It will be found," "I have met with no one," &c., are the phrases used. Actual evidence or point-blank statement of fact there is none. These remarks refer, of course, to the latter part of his letter. With regard to the former, we are quite prepared to join issue with him. In the first place, if the Roman Catholic Church has "every reason to be satisfied with the Voluntary system," it is a pity that it objects to be thrown upon that system. In the second place, the right of a Government to the possession of ecclesiastical property is limited solely by the nature of the relations which subsist between the Government and the Church. If people, even people "now living," have bestowed endowments on a State-Church, they have bestowed them on the Church of the State, and the State may do what it likes with its own Church. The endowments were given subject to the contingencies of all other property of the State. Sir George Bowyer says:—"Supposing in this country the Wesleyan Methodists were made the Established Church. Would that justify the Government in confiscating all their chapels, schools, colleges, and foundations, and selling them to pay the proceeds into the Exchequer?" We answer, unhesitatingly, Yes. If the Wesleyans should choose to become a State Church, they would, by so choosing, give up all control over the use and destiny of the property which had hitherto been their own. No sect can expect to, or, we hope, ever will, enjoy what it may deem to be the benefit of State patronage and yet keep to every advantage which characterises a Free Church. The Roman Catholic Church in Italy has had, more than most Churches, the "advantages" of legal support. Because it has had these advantages, property has been bestowed upon it. It has now to pay for them, and, in our judgment, if Signor Scialoja's Bill had been approved, would have paid for them cheaply enough. Putting the matter very plainly for this and all other Churches of a similar history, we may say that State Churches are not unlike the men who, for wealth, are reported to have sold their souls to the Evil one—not only

cannot they expect to get the best of such a bargain, but in all probability they will, in the end, lose their money and their souls together.

If we wished for an instance of the demoralisation attending endowment of this kind, we should find it in the *Church Times*. The party of which this journal is one of the organs is, on the whole, opposed to the union of the Church with the State. So is the *Church Times*; but this is what it says:—

It would be folly to contend that where Church and State are composed of the very same persons, they should not be united; and the actual state of things has arisen from such an identity in the past. But Catholics are agreed that the erection of a State Church where people were not agreed in matters of faith would be most improper; and they would be only too glad to see religion completely liberated in this realm from State patronage and control. Unfortunately, however, those who are anxious to bring about that result avow that they wish to couple with it a gigantic act of sacrilege and spoliation. Now, if the Church lost her endowments the blow would fall chiefly upon thinly populated districts. At present the Church is an almost purely voluntary body in large towns; but the Voluntary system has never been found capable of grappling with the case of very poor or rural parishes. Thus, "the separation of Church and State," as it is called, is simply a proposal to deprive half the country of a regular ministry, and to revive "Paganism" in its primitive sense, for "a pagan" literally means no more than a rustic. On the whole, therefore, it is thought better to submit to whatever inconveniences the encroachments of the State entail than to encounter disastrous results which might possibly spring from disestablishment.

Here, as in Italy, liberty is wanted, but it is judged to be worth nothing without property. The argument of expediency, founded on the nature of country districts, has so often been refuted that one is astonished to find it once more revived. We should like to know how the State-Church has "grappled" with the case of very poor and rural parishes?

Our Ritualistic contemporary gives us some more information. We are told that,—

The wonderful increase in the number of Catholics in the English Church who habitually resort to the tribunal of penance has created a demand for priests who understand the special duty committed to them. It not unnaturally has shown the necessity for some guide to which confessors could refer in case of doubt and difficulty. This has to a very great extent been supplied by the first part of a manual entitled, "The Priest in Absolution" (Masters), which contains a large amount of precise information, suitable for priests, but abounding too much in technicalities to be of much interest for laymen. To those among our readers who have attained the priestly office we cordially recommend it.

On the same subject we quote from another Church journal the following "correct copy of the printed paper which was given to all persons leaving St. Alban's a few days ago":—

SAINT ALBAN, THE MARTYR, HOLBORN.—A priest will attend in the sacristy to hear confessions at the following times:—

Wednesday:—10 a.m. to 12.30, 2.30 to 7.45, and after Evening Service, for any who may desire it.

Friday:—2 to 6 p.m.; for women only.

Saturday:—10 a.m. to 12.30, for anyone; 2.30 to 6 p.m. for men only; 6 to 7.45 for girls only; after Evening Service for anyone.

Those waiting for confession are requested to take their places in the side seats of the north aisle, as near the chancel aisle as possible, but not in the aisle itself. Those at the back will fill up the places in front of them as they are vacated, but are earnestly desired not to come into the sacristy out of their turn. Having made their confession, they will return into the nave of the church for private prayer.

If any cannot possibly come at these times, they should speak to one of the clergy; but all are specially entreated to conform to them if possible.

Says the *Westminster Gazette*: "We have little sympathy with the Anglican Confessional, except as a nursery of some who are training for their future Catholic home."

The Evangelical party is farther from agreement than it was a week ago. It appears to be hopelessly divided into two sections, one of which is led by the Earl of Shaftesbury, and the other by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Abel Smith. It was proposed that the Earl should have a conference with the latter parties, but before this could be arranged, the Hanburyites had settled what to do. They intend to wait on the Prime Minister, and ask for a Royal Commission. They think that legislative action is necessary to amend the rubrics; that the Church Discipline Act should also be amended, so that an effective remedy may be secured against all innovations, and that there should be a united action to secure these results. It will be seen that Liturgical revision is here proposed, and to this Lord Shaftesbury will not consent. The *Record* "deeply regrets" the present condition of things, and does not expect the movement to succeed. Nor do we.

The parishioners of St. Mary Tower, Ipswich, have, rather than that Christianity should cost them a halfpenny a year, formally decided to sell the advowson of their own living. It appears, from statements made by the Rev. J. R. Turncock, the incumbent, at a public meeting of the parishioners, held at Ipswich last week, that the present value of the living is 100*l.* a-year. This, no one need deny,

is scarcely enough, and it is therefore proposed to sell the right of patronage, and invest the proceeds so as to increase the value to 150*l.* The meeting seems to have been well attended, but not one parishioner said a word about subscribing for the support of their minister. Indeed, the idea does not appear to have occurred to them, and they passed the proposed scheme unanimously. What representations of Christianity these men must have had put before them may be gathered from the fact that the incumbent himself advocated the scheme.

The *Guardian* has an article on the expediency of a Pan-Anglican Synod. Why is it wanted? For this, good reader, amongst other reasons—"In presence, on the one side, of heathendom; on the other, of a countless multitude of contending sects, our Church must show a front of unflinching orthodoxy, with such unity of order and discipline as may enable its members to recognise their spiritual home in whatever land their lot may be cast." The Established Church "show a front of unflinching orthodoxy"!

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

THE YOUNG MEN'S MOVEMENT.

We understand that the Young Men's Committee appointed at the Conference last month have arranged to hold a short series of meetings, of which the first will be held next Wednesday evening. On that occasion Mr. Morley is to preside, and the Rev. David King, LL.D., is to deliver an address on the religious aspects of the Establishment question. As these meetings are to be convened by private invitation, we recommend those of our readers who wish for further information, or to promote the success of the movement, to place themselves in communication with the secretary of the Young Men's Committee, Mr. W. Peppercorn, 2, Serjeants'-Inn, Fleet-street. It is we learn, intended to hold at Manchester a conference similar to that lately held in London, and Monday, the 4th of March, is the date fixed upon for that purpose.

THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE COUNTY COMMITTEE.

The recent conferences of the Liberation Society in the Principality are already bearing fruit. The supineness and passivity which for so long have marked the Nonconformists of Wales then received a vigorous blow, which heralded destruction to the prevailing state of indifference; and the leading ministers of the county of Montgomery have wisely followed it up by a series of well-directed attacks on the iniquitous system under which Wales has quietly suffered. The policy of striking while the iron is hot is vigorously adopted. An uncompromising spirit is gradually being awakened. The people are becoming alive to the gravity and importance of a subject which they have culpably allowed to slumber for a lengthened period. Aware of the ill of the noxious Establishment which has usurped authority in their presence, but which exists only by their sufferance, they are applying the means of cure. They are taking the attitude that will bring about the consummation which, for the interests of true religion and the promotion of civil liberty in Wales, every Nonconformist devoutly wishes—the overthrow of the State Church in the Principality, where, almost more than anywhere else, such an institution is an injustice and an anomaly. At Llanidloes, Llanfair, Llanfyllin, and Llanrhaadr the principles of Nonconformity have been asserted within the last few days, not with bated breath and whispering humbleness, but in the courageous tones which prove that the Dissenters of Montgomery have resolved to destroy the false kingdom of the Establishment and vindicate the true kingdom of Christ.

These meetings are something like phenomena in the religious history of Wales; and their importance, from both a religious and political point of view, cannot be over estimated. Such assemblages are novelties there, and have not been heard of for years; and their import is of a very significant character. It conveys nothing less than the conviction and determination to emancipate Wales from the deathly tyranny of State-Churchism, and to let Christianity, unfettered by law, undegraded by the governance of worldly powers, unallied to Parliaments, and unpatronised by princes, have free course and be glorified. It means that a new day is dawning for Wales—a day of perfect religious liberty. Hence the meetings we allude to—which are only the beginnings of an organised agitation—are indicative of a reformation which affects the deepest interests of Wales. The force which has long kept a nation of Liberals in bondage to Toryism must be thrown off. A few landlords now generally have it nearly all their own way, and return whatever tool they like to nominate. The true representation of Wales must therefore be the first thing fought for. Improvement must come through that channel. The union of the electors for their common salvation constitutes the principal means to be employed; and with this power of alliance the dominion of Toryism will gradually be destroyed. Liberal Wales will be legitimately represented; and with its opinions authoritatively heard from its Liberal members in Parliament it will by slow degrees and more and more assume its natural position as a Liberal and Nonconformist country.—*Shrewsbury Free Press.*

WORK IN THE YORKSHIRE VILLAGES.

On January 22nd, the Rev. B. Nicholson, of Bristol, gave a lecture in the Independent school-

room at Eccleshill, near Bradford. Mr. Hutton presided. The Rev. J. Aston gave a short address in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Nicholson for his interesting lecture. A meeting has also been held in the Town School, Faraley, presided over by Mr. Elias Thomas. Mr. J. Andrew, of Leeds, the Revs. B. Nicholson and E. Parker, pleaded the cause of religious equality most earnestly. The evening was most unfavourable, and it was a matter of surprise that so many were present. A lecture was given by Mr. Nicholson at Pudsey on the 24th ult., in the Independent Schoolroom. Mr. J. Wade presided. After Mr. Nicholson's lecture, the Rev. J. Atkinson gave a short address in moving a vote of thanks. The attendance was good, considering the unfavourable state of the weather.

WORK IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

The Society's Western agent reports as follows:—"During my late annual visit to the county of Cornwall, I found our friends generally exceedingly well satisfied with our recent Parliamentary successes, and full of hope for the future. The subscriptions kept up well, although there was no extraordinary excitement in the shape of public meetings or lectures at the time; and, in spite of the fact that a greater amount of pecuniary distress prevailed than had been known there for thirty years past, there was, I believe, a considerable increase, both in the number of the subscribers and the total amount collected. In Bristol a larger amount has been collected than we have ever obtained before by the end of the year. . . . I have lately been rendering such assistance as I could to our friends in two rural parishes a few miles from Bristol, who have been making strenuous efforts to rid themselves of Church-rates. In neither of them, a few years back would such a thing have been dreamed of."

RITUALISM.

Mr. Robert Culling Hanbury makes the following announcement relative to the proposed movement against Ritualism:—"After holding several private meetings, a conference of clergymen and laymen was convened to consider the whole subject. The conference appointed a committee of laymen, who held several lengthened meetings, and ultimately agreed to a report. This report, having been discussed at two other meetings of the conference, has been adopted, and I now beg to forward a copy of it. The principal recommendation of the report—that a deputation should wait upon the Prime Minister to ask for a Royal Commission—is to be carried out by a committee appointed for that purpose. In reference to the holding of a public meeting, it will be observed that the committee deprecate such a gathering in London as a mere demonstration, and no further steps have therefore been taken in the matter. It will, of course, depend on the result of the application for a Royal Commission whether any and what ulterior steps shall be taken to secure the pure worship of our Reformed Church."

The Earl of Shaftesbury was one of the speakers at the annual meeting of the Islington Church Extension Society, held in Bishop Wilson's Memorial Hall on Friday evening. He thus spoke on the question of Ritualism:—

He was sorry that in these days there should be any holding back or hesitation in contributing all that was required for this great work [Church extension]. He felt quite sure that in this respect the Church of England stood in the greatest possible peril, not so much from without as from within. She was in peril from false brethren—from those who would subvert the whole Christian faith, and those who would convert it into an abominable superstition. Still there existed the great Evangelical party in the Church, who yet firmly held the truth, and who would, by God's blessing, preach it to the end. (Cheers.) From what he had seen, not of the wealthy and educated classes, who had prejudices and tastes of their own, but of working people, he did not hesitate to say that the great mass of the population was in a fair state to receive sound Evangelical truth. Those who were indifferent would not, perhaps, be moved in any way; but those who were sincere would not require mummery, millinery, vestments, or Ritualistic nonsense to attract them. (Hear, hear.) It was worse than a mistake, and betrayed great ignorance of the feelings of the people, to suppose that they were not fully alive to the importance of the great means which were provided for elevating them from their present position, and to induce them to look for a higher condition in a happier world. These men were not to be allured by church choirs, or by ceremonies which were more like the drill of volunteers than the solemn services of the Church. First there was marching in line, then single file, then in column, contortions and genuflections, which made him wonder when he saw them. (Hear, hear.) It was, to all intents and purposes, more like a review than the proceedings of a place of worship. That was not the way in which the people of England would be attracted to the Church or retained in it. What was required to attract and retain them was the simple exhibition of the Gospel, great simplicity of worship, everything that could control and exalt the feelings of the heart and induce men to look for salvation. (Cheers.) That was the way in which people would be attracted and retained, and that was the way in which church extension in Islington would answer its great purpose, tending to the comfort and happiness of thousands, and, he trusted, to the stability of the Church and the empire itself. No doubt in the days in which they lived it was necessary to proceed with very great caution and care. They must be very careful about what they said, and must narrowly watch what others said. It was difficult perhaps to point out any particular course of action which ought to be adopted, but certainly they must allow nothing to pass unnoticed, and there should be a simultaneous protest on all sides against the declaration of such doctrines as had recently been enunciated. This was a matter which most closely concerned the laity of the Church of England, for, although

the efforts of the clergy must be supported, the great work now to be performed must lie with the laity of the Church. It was the laity of the Church of England who were most affected by the new doctrines and practices,—it was the laity alone that had the power to repel them, and to bring those in authority to a sense of their duty to the Church. (Cheers.) If the laity through indifference, timidity, or timeserving hesitated to adopt that course which was the glory and strength of their forefathers, he believed the Reformation would become an obsolete term, and a thing without meaning, in this great realm of England. (Hear, hear.) He believed that the organisation of the Church of England was singularly adapted to resist the efforts of its enemies. It could by its Articles, by its parochial system, by a union between clergy and laity, indeed by its whole structure, present a strong organised front in resistance to the advance of Popery. Only let the Church of England be broken up and scattered, and there would be no powerful resistance to Popery, there would be no combined resistance or regular effort, no organised opposition to the progress of that baneful system. In order, then, that they might keep within the Church of England the great elements of truth, let the clergy and laity join heart and soul in maintaining those pure doctrines of the Reformation bequeathed to them by their forefathers,—the most glorious depositary ever committed to any nation. If they lost this great inheritance they might subsist as a nation, but they would subsist as a nation ten times lower than now,—they would be incapable of exercising any moral influence. They would have to deplore, if they lost the great treasure they possessed, that they no longer breathed an atmosphere of civil and religious liberty, because they no longer possessed that greatest and most blessed depositary ever committed by God to any nation. (Loud cheers.)

An address bearing nearly 300 signatures has been presented to "S. G. O." (Lord S. G. Osborne), by residents of Wimborne and the neighbourhood, expressing to his lordship their warm and earnest thanks for the hearty part he has taken in resisting and denouncing the Popish doctrines and practices that have been suffered to creep into our Church. They assure him of their hearty support, and that they have no intention of abandoning those Protestant truths and that religious liberty for which our forefathers went resolutely to the stake. To this address his lordship replied at some length, concluding as follows:—

You, I am sure, will agree with me that these are not the days in which it can be borne that public authority shall be made subservient to private prejudice. We are bound to respect the conscientious scruples and opinions of our fellow-creatures, but it is treason to truth and justice to leave the administration of the Protestant Church in the hands of men who take little pains to conceal from us that they are more disposed to follow and promote Romish practice than protest against it. It is foreign to the spirit of our Constitution that what the Sovereign swore at her coronation to uphold, any who are in authority under her should deliberately seek to subvert.

THE CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT OF JAMAICA.

(From the Daily News.)

The Church Establishment of Jamaica must shortly attract attention in Parliament, it may therefore be useful to show its character and magnitude. Our authority is the Jamaica Blue Book for 1865. At the head of the Establishment are two bishops—the Bishop of Jamaica and the Bishop of Kingston. The Bishop of Jamaica has resided in England for many years, his duties being discharged by his coadjutor. Doing nothing for Jamaica, except taking his title from that island, this prelate draws from the Imperial treasury 1,400*l.* a-year. The Bishop of Kingston draws from the same source 2,000*l.* a-year. Three archdeacons constitute the clerical staff of the Bishop of Kingston, all of them salaried from the Imperial treasury, and drawing 1,400*l.* a-year. One archdeacon is, however, a rector, and draws from the island treasury, as such, 626*l.* a-year. The other two are island curates, and draw, in addition to their Imperial allowance, 340*l.* each. Thus, for the support of the two bishops and three archdeacons, 4,800*l.* is drawn yearly from this country, and 1,306*l.* from the taxes of Jamaica. The apparitor and registrar of the bishop draw only 150*l.* a-year between them; but they hold some appointments as clerks of the peace, which add 640*l.* a-year to their incomes.

Next in order come the rectors. These are 22 in number, corresponding to the number of the parishes into which the island is divided. Their salaries vary from 350*l.* a-year to 600*l.*, and they are paid from the annual revenue of the island. They draw for salaries altogether 9,266*l.* Most of them are furnished with a house and glebe, worth probably 90*l.* a-year each on the average; but eleven of these gentlemen are not so fortunate. These receive allowances instead, and draw from the island taxes on this account amounting to 938*l.* per annum.

Next in rank to the rectors are the island curates. They are 49 in number, and are variously distributed over the island. They enjoy, with two exceptions, the uniform salary of 340*l.* a-year, also paid from the island revenues. Their stipends amount to 16,374*l.* a-year. With one exception, none of them appear to be allowed a house; but three have chaplaincies, which add 300*l.* a-year to their incomes.

There is yet another class of clergymen, called stipendiary curates, who hold a lower position in the ecclesiastical hierarchy. They are 15 in number, and their salaries vary from 100*l.* to 300*l.* The total amount of their stipends is 3,825*l.* Towards this amount the British Treasury contributes somewhat—how much the blue book does not say. Some few other advantages are enjoyed by the rectors, which amount in the whole to 244*l.* a-year: one of them has an allowance of 62*l.* a year for servants. The Rector of Vere has his servants paid for out of the

island taxes; in this particular he is more highly favoured than his fellows.

It thus appears that the stipends and allowances of the Establishment of Jamaica amounted in 1865 to 37,303*l.*, of which 4,800*l.* were paid from our English consolidated fund, and 32,503*l.* had to be provided from the taxes of the island. The actual ecclesiastical expenditure for that year, from the revenues of the island, seems to have been 30,685*l.* This sum does not, however, include the whole. Under the head of "parochial expenditure" is included the repairs of churches and the maintenance of Divine worship, and the salaries of Church servants. Of all this no particulars are given, but the sum total reaches several thousand pounds. Even with the reductions lately made by Sir John Grant the Establishment of Jamaica does not cost less than 30,000*l.* a year, independent of the sums paid by the imperial treasury to the bishops and archdeacons.

These clergymen supply 87 churches and chapels, which are stated to have accommodation for 46,434 persons. The number of persons generally attending is given at 39,710. But it is to be noticed that in no fewer than 44 instances the returns of attendance are the same as the number the church is reputed to contain. In a few cases the incumbent fairly states that in a church that will hold 200 persons he has only 75; another has accommodation for 400 persons, and gets only 70. There can be no doubt that the returns are untrustworthy as to the actual number of the church-going population. But if we take the stated attendance as correct, it gives only an eleventh part of the entire population as belonging to the Church of England. To supply this eleventh part with religious worship the whole island is mulcted upwards of 30,000*l.* a year. For the purpose of comparison, and also to show the amount of church accommodation furnished by the various denominations in Jamaica, we have compiled the following table. The Blue Book does not give the number of persons generally attending in the Baptist chapels, but in their case we have taken the average attendance of other Nonconformist bodies as our guide.

	Number of Churches or Chapels.	Number they will contain.	Number of Persons attending.
Church of England.....	87	46,434	39,710
Baptists.....	87	51,320	34,200
Wesleyans.....	76	34,105	24,210
London Mission Society	33	9,010	5,610
United Presbyterians...	26	12,575	7,955
Moravians.....	14	11,850	9,350
United Methodists.....	10	3,240	1,670
Roman Catholic.....	8	3,220	2,920
American Mission.....	6	1,340	750
Church of Scotland.....	1	1,000	450

It thus appears that the Nonconformists of Jamaica have provided 261 chapels or churches, and the Church of England one-third of the number, viz., 87. The Nonconformist places of worship will contain 127,660 persons; those of the Establishment, only 46,434, while the average attendance among Nonconformists is more than double that of the exaggerated numbers of the Church. Indeed it seems that the Baptists alone have built as many places of worship as the Establishment, and that the accommodation they furnish is considerably more.

In 1861 the population of Jamaica was found to number 441,264 individuals; church and chapel accommodation, among all denominations, is provided for 174,094 persons, that is for 39½ per cent. of the entire population. Taking the usual requirement at 69½ per cent., there yet remain 20 per cent. of the population of Jamaica without the means of public worship.

But in whatever way we look at the religious condition of Jamaica it is an intolerable injustice that the Church of the minority—so small a minority, and that consisting of the wealthiest part of the people—should tax the majority for its support.

THE CLERGY AND THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.—The storm raised by the Rev. W. Walters' lecture has not yet subsided. He replied to charges made by Mr. Massingham, and several of the clergy have taken his remarks home to themselves. Letters between the Rev. W. R. Bowditch and Mr. Lee, which appear in another column, show that Mr. Walters has not yet answered certain documents handed to him by his chairman, and which have been published in the Wakefield papers. It must, however, be remembered that Mr. Walters did not come to Wakefield to answer Mr. Bowditch, but Mr. Massingham, and he did answer him. If Mr. Bowditch is of opinion that he can disprove anything Mr. Walters said, he has nothing to do but to take the Music Saloon, and he will have a crowded audience, and we will gladly publish anything he says. What more he can desire we cannot think, except he wishes to go on fiddling on the one string of *vis a voce* discussion; but, if this be the case, we must recall the fact that *vis a voce* discussion was offered by the chairman, Mr. Alderman Lee, and has not yet, so far as we know, been accepted, and if it is not accepted, it is to be supposed they are "afraid" of it.—Wakefield Express.

ANOTHER CLERGYMAN IN A NONCONFORMIST PULPIT.—On Sunday evening the Rev. H. Fry, D.D., a clergyman of the Church of England, preached in Dr. Burns' Chapel, New Church-street, Edgware-road.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS.—Lord Henry Lennox is about to place Roman Catholic chaplains in the navy in the same position of equality with the Anglican chaplains as already exists in regard to the army chaplains.

THE WISEMAN MEMORIAL.—It has been found necessary to abandon "for the present" the proposed memorial cathedral to Cardinal Wiseman: But it is announced that the fund still exists, should any-

one wish to subscribe to it. It is stated that the sum does not amount to 20,000*l.*, although all Europe was canvassed for subscriptions.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY UNION SOCIETY.—The subject debated at the Union Society on Tuesday night, was, "That in the opinion of this House the maintenance of the Irish Established Church on its present footing is an injustice to the population of that country." On a division there appeared for the motion 56; against, 50. The motion was therefore carried.

"A THOROUGH CHURCHMAN."—No stronger word of praise can be given by some men to a candidate or friend than that he is a "thorough Churchman." It often climaxes a sentence as if it represented the highest of all virtues. Have its users ever seen Gross's definition of the term?—"Thorough Churchman: A person who goes in at one door of a church, and out at the other, without stopping." ("Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue," 3rd edit., 1796.—Athenaeum.)

DEMOLITION OF ANOTHER CITY CHURCH.—On Thursday morning Divine service was for the last time celebrated at St. Benet. This venerable, but not very pleasing, structure stands at the corner of Fenchurch and Gracechurch streets. The preacher chose the somewhat striking text, "So Abraham departed, as God had said unto him." Out of the proceeds realised by the sale of the church, a church dedicated to St. Benet will be built and endowed in one of the most thickly-inhabited districts of Stepney.

THE ST. ALBAN'S CONFESSIONAL.—The Rev. D. Wilson has expressed to the Rev. N. Ormiston, a missionary curate in the parish of Islington, his strong disapprobation of the conduct of the latter gentleman in seeking the Rev. Mr. Mackonochie in the confessional at St. Alban's, in the character of a penitent, and there making a loud protest against "Puseyism." The Bishop of London has also intimated the deep regret with which he has heard of the occurrence.

THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE FREE KIRK.—The case of Mr. Robertson, the printer, who appealed to the last Free Church General Assembly against a decision excluding him from religious privileges, was taken up on Wednesday by the Free Presbytery of Glasgow. As Mr. Robertson had not given up Sunday work, the Presbytery, on the motion of Dr. Gibson, resolved to instruct the Gorbals Free Session to strike his name off the congregational roll.—Scotsman.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—At a meeting in Deptford, the other evening, Mr. Spurgeon made a novel proposition. After the sermon, a collection was to be made in aid of the building fund of a proposed Baptist chapel; but the rev. gentleman expressed his opinion that the time when so much distress prevailed in the town was inopportune to collect money for such a purpose, and said the announced collection would be made, but on behalf of the poor, while he would give a corresponding amount to the building fund out of his own pocket. The collection amounted to 10*l.*—South London Press.

MR. HADFIELD AND PROPERTY RAISED BY VOLUNTARISM.—Mr. Hadfield has given notice that he will, on Tuesday next, the 19th inst., ask the Attorney-General whether his attention has been directed to the great number of institutions raised by voluntary contributions in England having property affected by the law of mortmain, and held by trustees or a trustee for religious, charitable, literary, scientific, educational, and other useful purposes; and, whether he will bring in a bill to cheapen and facilitate the mode of transferring trust property so held and other trust property held therewith to new trustees or a new trustee, either alone or jointly with continuing trustees, or a continuing trustee; also to enable trustees of such institutions to sue and be sued corporately in respect of their trusts; and also to modify the operation of the law of mortmain as to diminish the expense of founding such institutions by voluntary contributions.

THE CONGREGATIONALISTS IN AMERICA.—The Congregational Quarterly for January states the whole number of churches in the United States and territories, at 2,780; supplied with pastors, 852; acting pastors, 1,032; not specified, 221; not supplied, 625; condition not reported, 50. Whole number of members, 267,453, of whom 87,781 are males, and 174,333 females, while 32,981 are reported absent from the churches to which they belong. Number of additions last year, 19,944; removals by death, 4,380; by dismission, 8,366; by excommunication, 614. The number of adults baptized was 5,221, and of infants, 4,077. Number of children in the Sabbath-schools, 286,275. Amount of benevolent contributions reported, 1,024,720 *dols.* The contribution from Massachusetts amounted to 392,244 *dols.*; number of Sabbath-school scholars returned from this State, 87,107. The number of churches exceeds that of the previous year by 60; the number of members by 3,913; additions by profession 169 more; by letter 1,171 more than last year; baptisms of adults show an increase of 231, while of infants there are 44 less; Sabbath-schools show an increase of 14,274 members.

EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH-RATE CONTEST NEAR NOTTINGHAM.—A very animated Church-rate contest has taken place at the village of Arnold, near Nottingham. The vicar and churchwardens called a meeting of parishioners on Tuesday week, at which it was proposed to levy a rate on the parish for the purpose of raising the sum of 693*l.* to complete the church restoration. A poll was demanded, and it took place on Thursday. The greatest excitement prevailed in

the village, a large proportion of the inhabitants being Dissenters. The numbers at four o'clock showed a majority of one against the rate. The vicar (the Rev. G. F. Holcombe) then said he should adjourn the poll and keep it open as long as he pleased. Mr. Mellors protested against that course as illegal, the vicar having stated at the meeting that the poll would be kept open from ten till four. The objecting parishioners took legal advice, that the vicar, in trying to keep open the poll, had acted illegally, and that a number of votes objected to by the vicar were good votes. A parish meeting was held the same evening, at which it was decided, notwithstanding the protest which had been handed in, to keep on the polling. At Friday's polling, which was final by the decision of the churchwardens, there was a majority of three against the Church-rate being enforced.

NOMINAL ORBED OF CRIMINALS.—A Parliamentary return just issued gives the nominal creed of the prisoners in certain London prisons. Of 5,420 prisoners committed to the House of Correction, Westminster, in 1865, 3,113 are described as being of the Church of England; 2,247 Roman Catholics; 21 Wesleyans; 15 Presbyterians; 16 Baptists; 2 Independents; and 6 Jews. The number in custody on the 15th of November last was 622, of whom 416 were Church of England; 201 Roman Catholics; 1 Wesleyan; 2 Presbyterians; 1 Independent; and 1 Jew. At Coldbath-fields there were committed during the year 1865, 7,845 nominal members of the Church of England; 2,390 Roman Catholics; 41 Jews; 35 Presbyterians; 21 Mohammedans; 12 Baptists; 23 Wesleyans; 5 Independents; 3 Lutherans; and 1 Unitarian. Of 1,616 prisoners on the 20th of last month, 321 were Roman Catholics. At the Middlesex House of Detention, Clerkenwell, the prisoners last year were divided into 6,696 Church of England; 1,957 Roman Catholics; 62 "Dissenters"; 16 Presbyterians; 45 Jews; and 11 "of other denominations." On the 15th of last December there were 129 members of the Church of England, and 56 Roman Catholics, at the City of London Prison, Holloway. There were committed during 1865, 1,315 Church of England; 613 Roman Catholics; 22 Jews; 13 Presbyterians; 13 Wesleyans; 6 Baptists; 2 Independents; and 3 "of no religion." On the 15th of last November the 283 prisoners in confinement at this prison consisted of 237 Church of England; 32 Roman Catholics; 5 Jews; 1 Presbyterian; 4 Wesleyans; 2 Baptists; and 2 "of no religion." The item "no religion" would probably be the truest description of the creed of most, seeing that they regarded neither the laws of God nor of man.—*Ragged School Union Magazine.*

MANCHESTER CONFERENCE OF SABBATH-SCHOOL TEACHERS.—On Saturday, Feb. 2nd, a very large and important conference of Sunday-school teachers was held in the Lever-street schoolroom, Manchester (kindly lent for the occasion), over which the Rev. W. Caine, M.A., presided. There were representatives from most of the Sabbath-schools in the district, and the greatest unanimity and enthusiasm prevailed. The subject of the conference was, "How to make our Sabbath-schools more effective, with special reference to the Band of Hope movement." The following resolutions, moved and seconded by Sunday-school superintendents and teachers, were unanimously adopted:—1. "That this conference of Sabbath-school teachers, deeply impressed with the solemn fact, constantly urged upon their attention, that large numbers of elder scholars, of both sexes, continually leave our Sabbath-schools and fall into immorality and vice, desire publicly to express their full conviction, drawn from sad experience, that the temptations of the public-house and the beerhouse, and especially the Sunday-evening singing saloons in connection therewith, are the chief cause of this lamentable and increasing evil." 2. "That this conference, believing the Band of Hope to be one of the most powerful agencies for counteracting the temptations emanating from the pernicious drinking customs of society, so damaging to the real interest of the Sabbath-school work, pledges itself to assist in the extension of this valuable and Christian movement to every Sabbath-school, and earnestly appeals to our noble band of self-denying teachers by their example and efforts to aid in this work, and the entire removal of the greatest hindrance to every Christian effort." 3. "That this meeting cannot separate without expressing its deep feelings of joy at the formation of a powerful organisation for 'stopping the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday,' which has received so cordial and unanimous a reception from the whole nation; and, while tendering their warmest thanks to the executive of this association, pray God to bless their efforts to remove so unjust a monopoly." 4. "That petitions to Parliament be adopted, and that the rev. chairman be requested to sign them on behalf of this meeting, and forward them for presentation to both Houses of Parliament."

THE BISHOPS AND THE ANTI-PEW MOVEMENT.—At a meeting of the London "Free and Open Church Association" on Wednesday evening, the secretary reported that he had solicited the patronage of the several members of the Episcopal Bench, and he read their replies, of which the following is the substance:—The Bishops of Norwich, Durham, Carlisle, and Worcester, had declined the council's invitation, but assigned no reason for doing so. The Bishop of Chester sympathised generally in the objects of the association, but thought that connection with such a society might interfere with his judgment in pew-allotment cases brought under his notice officially. The Bishop of Oxford, whilst entirely sympathising with the association in its desire to secure the fullest use of the churches for the parishioners, thought the present law of the Church secured that object better

than it would be secured by unlimited freedom. The Bishop of Bangor was doing all he could in his own diocese to carry out the society's objects. The Bishop of Salisbury wished all success to the association, but thought a bishop's name would be out of place as a patron of a society. The Bishop of Lincoln, not being connected with the diocese of London, would rather not join a London society. The Archbishop of Dublin thought the objects of the association desirable, but declined to connect himself to them. The Bishop of Rochester was desirous of confining his attention to his own diocese. The Bishop of Manchester did not wish to join any more societies at present, being thankful for the consecration of 100 new churches in his own diocese. He did not wish to introduce any new element into a system which was advancing so favourably. The Bishop of Ely heartily desired to see pews and pew-rents abolished, but hesitated to pledge himself to the principle that a church should be free not only to all the parishioners but to all comers. The secretary had written to say that the association wished to maintain the parochial system by throwing open churches to parishioners only, and not to all comers. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol watched with interest the progress of the society. He "plainly approved" of some of its objects, and trusted that the society's policy would continue to be such as would enable him to give it his hearty support ere long.

THE SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE SOCIETY.—The seventh annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening, in the Free-trade Hall. There was a small attendance. The Mayor (Robert Neill, Esq.) occupied the chair, and opened the proceedings. The secretary (the Rev. Dr. Cather) presented a report, which stated that the society was established seven years ago. There was no collection nor administration of funds, but the society tried, with the least possible amount of money, to do the greatest possible amount of good. They endeavoured to put into the mind such principles and motives as would lead to greater results than if they, as a society, collected and administered the gifts of donors. They had lifted up a banner for God and His poor, and it now stood much higher than when they first raised it. Throughout the United Kingdom a sound public opinion upon systematic beneficence was increasing. Meetings had been held in London, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Oxford, Bath, Bristol, and other towns, also in Scotland. The objects of the society were also known to some extent in France, Canada, New Zealand, and India. The society had only one agent, and that was himself, and it should give increased confidence when he told them that during his labours throughout the year he did not cost the society a single farthing. The fund necessary was subscribed by a few gentlemen who administered it themselves. The expenditure of the year had amounted to 1,533*l.*, of which 170*l.* was expended in Manchester. After the society had been established three years a collection was made in the Free-trade Hall for the cost of the meeting, and it would be repeated that evening. He moved:—

That all work should be done for Christ, that is, in obedience to His word, in accordance with the allotments of His providence, in dependence on His Spirit, and in subordination to His glory.

The Rev. W. McCaw seconded the resolution, and urged the propriety of uniting works with faith. He said it was a fact that while the revenue of all the missionary societies was only between one and two millions, there were eighty millions spent in intoxicating drinks, and thirteen millions in tobacco. He trusted, however, that the Church would rise to a full sense of its duty. The resolution was supported by Mr. George Barbour, and unanimously adopted. The Rev. Colin Brewster proposed:—

That all wealth is to be received from, held for, and used to the glory of Christ.

The Rev. S. Thornton, in seconding the motion, said they did not wish to rob benevolence of all its impulse, but they did want something like a steady flow. Spasmodic giving was not to be trusted. The Rev. C. Garrett moved:—

That all worship is due to Christ, including the offering of substance.

He said he regarded the Systematic Beneficence Society as a method of giving made easy. Nothing was more unpleasant than collecting money, and the lords of the creation were apt to pass it over to the other sex. But if good people were instructed to give on principle and system, men would find it a pleasure to solicit for benevolent objects. The Rev. J. L. Whitley seconded the motion. The Rev. R. Scott proposed, and Mr. R. B. Brierley seconded:—

That all the world will be won to Christ when work, wealth, and worship are given to Him.

The resolution was unanimously adopted; and, after a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. Robert Barbour, seconded by the Rev. John Edwards, the meeting closed by singing the doxology.

CONVOCAION.—Both Houses of Convocation of the province of Canterbury reassembled yesterday. In the Lower House, the Ven. Archdeacon Allen gave notice of a motion relative to ecclesiastical vestments, providing that nothing should be worn in Church ministrations except the stole and university hood. Canon Woodgate gave notice of a motion relative to an improved translation of the Prayer-book. The Archdeacon of Taunton brought up a report from a committee appointed last session on the subject of a general Anglican Council. The committee proposed a general Council, comprising not only the United Church of England and Ireland, together with those branches of it which exist in the dependencies of the British Crown, but also the American and Scottish

branches of the Anglican Communion. They consider that the principal advantages of such a Council would be:—

1. To enable the various branches to confer on matters imperilling the faith. 2. To provide a broad basis upon which to found attempts to bring about intercommunion with other portions of the Church Catholic. 3. The discussion and affirmation of the common principle of right ecclesiastical discipline. 4. The consideration of the principles upon which constitutions and canons applicable to the whole body of the Anglican Communion may best be framed. 5. The taking counsel together as to the best means of sanctifying commerce, emigration, and colonisation. 6. The consideration of in what ways the missionary action of the several churches of the Anglican Communion may be quickened.

The expected results of the proposed council are thus stated:—

1. The altered condition of colonial churches, arising out of recent legal decisions, which in some colonies have raised the question, how far, and in what ways, their connection with the Church of England is thereby weakened and put in jeopardy. An important object of the council would be to agree on the proper mode of obviating the difficulties and allaying the anxieties connected with this question. 2. This would include the endeavour to devise a course of procedure by which ministers of the Church, whether bishops, priests, or deacons, accused of denying the faith, or infringing the discipline of the Church, may be duly tried in a mode recognised by the whole communion as just both to the accused and to the Church. 3. Another question which might fitly be submitted to the council would be this: to what extent decisions of the Ecclesiastical Courts of the mother Church, involving questions of doctrine, affect the churches in communion with her.

The Archdeacon moved the adoption of this report. The Rev. Canon Blakesley moved an amendment—"That the House do receive the report of the committee, but adopt the first paragraph only."

Religious Intelligence.

THE WORKING CLASSES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

A conference on this subject is shortly to be held at Leicester, and we believe that similar meetings are projected at Cheltenham and Cambridge. We find in the *Western Morning News* an account of a large meeting of working men held in the Unitarian schoolroom in Treville-street, Plymouth, to ascertain their reasons for their absence from public worship. The Rev. T. W. Freckleton, who called the meeting, presided, and in the course of his remarks, said he thought it was a mistake that, at the recent Conference at the London Coffee-house, the discussion was not absolutely free, as he wished it to be there. Several working men then addressed the meeting. Their objections were not substantially different from those expressed elsewhere. One person regretted that there were in the churches and chapels great distinctions between the upper and lower classes, and it was a known fact that many an ill-clad person could seldom find room in either place. At the Mechanics' Institute on Sunday afternoons no such distinctions were observed, but all classes were together, and there they found the working men. Another speaker alleged that the ministers did not look after the poor as they ought to do; a third thought the working classes irreligious because the clergy made religion a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence; a fourth denounced a paid ministry altogether; a fifth said he heard a great deal about another world, but not enough about this; a sixth did not see how ministers could do without payment. Mr. Elliott said he thought that the indifference of working men, rather than the inconsistencies of professed Christians and salaried ministers, lay at the root of the matter. He believed it was also the same cause which restrained men from taking part in the great political and charitable movements of the day, which tended to elevate men and make this country progressive. The Chairman was inclined to think that indifference itself was a consequence, and he should like to ascertain what was the cause of the indifference. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Steer believed that in the great majority of cases the absence of working men from places of worship arose out of the fact that they did not understand the multiplicity of teaching which they received, and which had no doubt been forced upon them at Sunday-school in their younger days. So many methods of religion were brought under their notice that they began to think that all of them could not be true, and then they adopted other ways of spending their time and thoughts, and this led, he believed, to the indifference spoken of by a previous speaker. Men thought and accepted that which appeared to them reasonable, and they rejected that which appeared to be unreasonable. The conference continued for about two hours, and was then brought to a termination.

(From the *Inquirer*.)

Several conferences following up the questions recently discussed at the London Coffee-house have been held during the past week in different localities of the metropolis, and always with most interesting results. The chief causes assigned for the neglect of religious ordinances are poverty, over work, class prejudices, the pew system, poor preaching, and the popular theology. These, it will be observed, are all reasons, more or less artificial, and which may be, in the course of years, considerably modified, if not substantially removed. They do not involve any deep or incurable antagonism between the artisan class and Christianity. On the contrary, nothing has been more striking nor more uniform than the testimony borne, under circumstances of unquestion-

able sincerity, to the principles of the simple Gospel. The character and the work of Christ everywhere command the profoundest homage and veneration; and nothing can be more touching nor more hopeful for the future than the sacred attachment felt for Him. Under every variety of objection to the modes of preaching or worship there is one common feeling of loyalty to Christ. He is regarded as being in some way kept apart from the people; the story of His life is thought not to be faithfully represented; and the world is defrauded of the blessings which He came to confer. On this point many of the objections turn, and contrasts are drawn between the lowliness and the gracious sympathy of Christ, and the proud assumptions of those who specially claim to be His representatives. Much prejudice and some not very logical reasoning are blended with the objections of the working men; but on the whole we have found it difficult to answer many of them, and believe that they have made out a case for the gravest reflection and inquiry.

The truth seems to be that, in the rapid transitions of society, the growth of population, the increase of wealth, and the defective development of Protestantism, an important portion of the community—that portion brought most into contact with mechanical labour and the practical results of science—have become, without direct blame anywhere, if not alienated from religious ministrations, at least not included in any Church organisation. Now that the fact has come to be admitted, how is it to be met? How are the religious affections of an intelligent and powerful class to be won? The practical bearings of the question are manifest; for if we believe that religion is natural to man, is the basis of his whole moral life, and the friend of all progress in good, we must see the danger and the evil of the present estrangement continuing. Our social welfare suffers from it in various ways. The character of the working man is injured; and his whole family relations lose sanctity and moral stimulant to the extent that his social affections are not called out in connection with the common worship of God. He readily admits the fact, and grieves over it, and feels that if God and His service do not in their due share occupy his heart, and awaken his better nature, he is less equal to resist temptation, and more apt to fall a prey to those lower passions that ever beset him.

A great opportunity is presented for the more zealous and faithful preaching of the Gospel. We need not go far away to distant lands for a field of the highest missionary labour. Here at our doors are men, in every way our equals, waiting for instruction—hungering for the bread of heaven—and who are capable of adding immensely to the power of the Christian church. Are they to be gathered into the fold? If they can be made to feel that Christianity is a reality and a life, not a mere wrangle about mysterious dogmas, but a message of sanctity and hope to their religious affections, and in harmony with reason, with science, and with all social reforms, then the present unhappy state of things will disappear. But it is essential for those who speak to thoughtful working men to lay aside conventionalities, and perhaps sectarian predilections, and realise as far as possible the position both moral and intellectual of those they address. Many of them turn away from the trivial, technical professional preachments of the churches with ill-concealed disgust. The ordinary controversies, theological or ecclesiastical, have to them little interest. They are men of the time, who want Christianity in its adaptation to the time. They feel the need of a new reformation, and demand the full development of Protestantism. We are, in the main, in accord with them, and earnestly desire that the movement for a more effectual presentation of the simple Gospel, as the spiritual food of the people, may find amongst us energetic and hearty support. No more congenial work could engage our ministers, especially in the metropolis and other large towns, and their chapels or schoolrooms might be so many centres for holding conferences and for otherwise exchanging useful thoughts and sympathies with a class of men whose political importance is ever on the increase, and whose services to the State and to so many departments of industrial life are too obvious to be called in question. A happy day it will be when they bring their strong heads and true English hearts to strengthen the cause of religion, and build up the Church that is to be.

THE WEIGH-HOUSE CHAPEL, FISH-STREET-HILL.—A deeply-interesting service was held on Friday evening, Feb. 1st, in the Weigh-house, in connection with the ordination of the Rev. L. D. Bevan, LL.B., as junior pastor with the Rev. Thomas Binney. The chapel was thronged in every part, and amongst the ministers present were the following:—The Revs. Dr. Halley, J. H. Godwin, S. Newth, R. Robinson, Dr. Spence, E. Mannering, Thomas Jones, D. Rees (Llanelli), D. Thomas (Bristol), S. Hall, H. Allon, J. Stoughton, J. C. Harrison, W. Dorling, A. Buzacott, E. P. Hood, J. W. Richardson. The Rev. T. Binney presided, and, having commenced the service, the Rev. E. Mannering read suitable Scripture lessons and offered prayer; after which the Rev. Dr. Spence entered the pulpit and delivered a brief introductory address, in which he showed that they had an intelligent and Scriptural reason for the service in which they were then engaged. Adverting to Apostolic succession, he said its absurdity was only in seeking to identify it with some particular line of ministers; but a succession of Apostolic ministers throughout the ages was no absurdity, but a fact for which to render thanks to God. The Rev. David Rees, of Llanelli, proceeded to ask "the usual questions," which on the present occasion were compressed into two—the first

relating to the young minister's religious history, and the second to his views of doctrine. Mr. Rees prefaced his questions with a little homely history of his relation to Mr. Bevan as the pastor and friend of his parents, as the one who had imprinted upon him in infancy the seal of God's covenant, and had ever since watched his course with feelings of the deepest interest and affection. In reply to the first question, the junior pastor narrated with singular good taste the steps which led him to his present position, throwing his religious history into the form of a brief story, which was not the less impressive because told impersonally. In attempting to realise the age in which he lived, and the special relation of the Gospel to what he considered some of its special errors, he said the Divine spirituality should be affirmed against its materialism, the atonement of Jesus Christ against its human progression theory, and the truth of the Holy Spirit against the sacerdotal power claimed by a certain class of men in the present day. The answers to the questions having been pronounced satisfactory, the Rev. T. Binney offered the ordination prayer, which he did with great emotion, as a father commending a son to the care of the Chief Shepherd. The Rev. Dr. Halley delivered the charge, founding it upon 2 Tim. iv. 1-8. In the course of an address replete with tenderness and good counsel towards the junior pastor, Dr. Halley expressed the esteem and affection he cherished for the honoured senior minister of the church, and earnestly hoped that as the Weigh-house during its long history had witnessed a succession of happy co-pastorates, the present might prove as happy and as useful as any which had preceded it. In the Apostolic Church there was usually a plurality of pastors; indeed, the disposition seemed to have been "to heap up pastors"; the disposition in the present day was to restrict the pastoral office to one man. Doubtless there were evils in both. It was quite possible to lose the Apostolic spirit by mimicking Apostolic order. Dr. Halley said he was glad to see an increase of co-pastorships, and he was specially anxious about the good working of them. He was sometimes told they did not work well; if they did not, it was the fault of the workmen, not of the work. The Weigh-house Church was Presbyterian in its early history, and most of the London Presbyterian churches had their pastors and teachers, their morning and afternoon preachers. If in the seventeenth century a Presbyterian church had only one pastor, then that church was very small. The early Independents had their teachers and pastors, and the Weigh-house had been especially distinguished by its co-pastorships, and during all the co-pastorships of 200 years there had only been one which was not of a pleasant character.—*English Independent.*

THE REV. E. J. EVANS, B.A., has accepted an engagement in connection with the Lewisham Congregational School, and has expressed his intention of removing from Poyle to London.

BERMONDSEY.—The Rev. George Rose, who has sustained the pastorate of Jamaica-row Church, Bermondsey, upwards of forty years, having, through bodily infirmity, been rendered incapable of discharging the active duties in connection therewith, the church and congregation, with the assistance of several friends formerly connected with them, have secured for him an annual sum, equal to three-fourths of his former income. The announcement was made at the annual church-meeting held on the 31st ult. The work of the ministry will in future be carried on by the Rev. John Farren, who has been associated as co-pastor with Mr. Rose nearly two years.

THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY have lately held a special meeting for prayer in reference to the present crisis of its affairs, including its financial position, its lack of missionary candidates, its serious losses in the field of operation by death and the failure of health, and the urgent calls from the mission field. There was a very large attendance of ministers, and the proceedings were marked by great earnestness of spirit. Mr. Stoughton and Dr. Spence, in a few hearty words, pleaded the great claims of the society on the affection and confidence of Christian men; and urged that the Congregational churches should do greatly more for a society which is their chief means of fulfilling their duty of preaching the Gospel to the heathen world. It was felt on all hands that any formal resolution to support the society in its hour of need was quite unnecessary, and would rather jar upon the deep spiritual feelings and convictions which the service had produced.

MARLBOROUGH CHAPEL, OLD KENT-ROAD.—On Wednesday evening, the annual congregational tea-meeting was held in the spacious lecture-room attached to the chapel. The ladies of the congregation had gaily decorated the room with flags, banners, flowers, and mottoes appropriate to the occasion, presenting quite a festive appearance. The choir was taken by the pastor, the Rev. W. A. Essery, who presented a highly encouraging and satisfactory report of the numerous religious and benevolent societies now in full operation in connection with this place of worship. Sixty-two members have joined the church during the past year. The Sabbath-schools contain over 700 children. The young men's and young women's Bible-classes are well attended. The congregation have during the year raised upwards of £1,000 in aid of the cause of religion and benevolent societies. Appropriate and cheering addresses were delivered by the Revs. P. J. Turquand, Dr. Waddington, J. Marchant, L. Herschell, T. Powell (a returned missionary from Samoa, and formerly a scholar in the Sabbath-school), W. P. Tiddy, and J. De Kewer Williams.

TOTTENHAM.—On Tuesday evening recognition services were held in the lecture-room of the Literary Institute, Tottenham, in connection with the settle-

ment of the Rev. J. J. Wonnacott, late of Hertford, over the new Congregational church, High-cross, Tottenham. Mr. Samuel Morley presided. Mr. Dean, one of the managers of the church, read a statement of the new movement, from which it appeared that, through the efforts of the Rev. Arthur Hall and his friends, the lecture-hall was hired and the church formed. There was now the prospect of a new chapel being built, as one of the twenty-four towards which Mr. Morley and the Chapel-building Society gave 1,000l., and a suitable site near the green has been secured. Mr. Wonnacott having given a short account of his doctrinal views, Mr. Morley next addressed the meeting. He was glad in being able to offer a few words of congratulation to all the parties concerned in that new undertaking. He had known Mr. Wonnacott for years, and had every reason to believe that he was worthy of their highest confidence. As to the difficulties that had to be encountered, he felt assured that the chief difficulty was removed when they got the right man, and now that they were settled, he would earnestly urge the church to endeavour, by God's blessing, to realise the two great objects for which any and every Christian church existed—viz., to promote the spiritual life of the membership, and then so to consecrate themselves to God's work as to bring others to the feet of Christ. The Rev. Mr. Davidson, Presbyterian; the Rev. Mr. Wallace, Baptist; the Rev. Mr. Bond, Wesleyan; the Rev. J. H. Wilson; the Rev. Mr. Kennedy, Croydon; the Rev. Mr. Lennox, Herts; and other gentlemen, then addressed the meeting.

ROSS.—The Rev. T. Davis, M.A., Ph.D., of Painswick, has received and accepted the unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational church, Ross, Herefordshire, for nearly twenty years under the pastoral care of the Rev. W. F. Buck.

LISKEARD.—The Rev. W. Thorn, Winchester, from old associations with the chapel at Liskeard, in Cornwall, has bought house property to the value of 800l., with which he intends eventually to endow the new chapel. He has also promised 100l. on condition that the congregation raise 300l. by midsummer next, so as to leave the building free from debt.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—At the annual meeting of the Home Mission Society in connection with Snowhill Congregational Church, it was stated that they have already three mission stations in the town, at which services are regularly held by the missionary, and by lay preachers, who are members of the church. Extra occasional services have been held during the year. Land for building a chapel at Blakenall has been purchased. A new chapel will be erected as soon as the committee have sufficient funds.

NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.—The Rev. J. H. Lochore, having for some time past been suffering from ill-health, has been obliged to resign his charge as minister of the Dock-street Independent Church, Newport, Monmouthshire. Before accepting such resignation the church resolved to raise not less than 300l. to enable him to retire and rest for at least twelve months in the hope that by doing so and with God's blessing his strength may be recruited and his health restored. It is pleasing to add that promises amounting to upwards of 350l. have been received.

RUGBY.—**BAPTIST CHAPEL.**—The Rev. H. Angus, the respected minister of the above place of worship for the last nineteen years, has informed the church and congregation of his intention to resign his pastoral office among them on Sunday, the 10th inst. The announcement was received with deep regret and sorrow; a feeling, we may add, shared in by many outside of the particular denomination to which Mr. Angus belongs. While holding fast to his own views, Mr. Angus, during his ministry here, has shown broad sympathies and a truly catholic spirit; being ever ready to assist in any good work, whether of a social, philanthropic, or more strictly Christian character. Mr. Angus first preached in Rugby, on the first Sunday in January, 1848, and he became the settled minister in the following May, succeeding the Rev. E. Fall. We understand Mr. Angus will preach his farewell sermons on Sunday, and leaves Rugby for Shrewsbury in March, to take charge of a Baptist church there.—*Rugby Gazette.*

BLACKHEATH.—On Tuesday evening, the 5th inst., a meeting was held in the schoolroom adjoining the Congregational church, to hear a lecture by Lord William Lennox, on "Bunyan and the Pilgrim's Progress." The lecturer gave an interesting epitome of the life of Bunyan, dwelling at length on the persecutions to which he was subjected, and pointing out the difficulties under which the State Church labours in regard to the employment in its ministry of men who, possessing no high scholastic attainments, are yet endowed with much natural intelligence, vigour, and spiritual strength. After quoting Lord Macaulay's panegyric of Bunyan, the noble lecturer proceeded briefly to analyse the great allegory of the immortal dreamer, and closed with an appeal to all to work earnestly in life. After the lecture, a vote of thanks to the noble lord was moved by the Rev. J. Beazley, seconded by Mr. Webber, and a collection was made in aid of a house for homeless boys at Farningham. Sir Charles Fox and Mr. Douglas Fox also spoke, detailing the aim and mode of working of the society for whose benefit the collection was made. On Wednesday the Blackheath Essay and Discussion Class held its usual fortnightly meeting. Mr. Stokes delivered to a large attendance of members and their friends a lecture on memory. The lecturer illustrated his system by diagrams and little performing boys, who exhibited some remarkable feats of memory. Mr. Stokes gave also statements showing the practical utility of his plan as applied to infant and other schools.

BAITER-STREET CHAPEL, PLYMOUTH.—At the

annual tea-meeting at the above place, held on Thursday, the 7th inst., a large gathering of ministers and friends from most of the Nonconformist churches in the town, met to testify their esteem and respect for the Rev. E. Hipwood, who after six years' pastorate at Batter-street, is about to leave for another church in Leicestershire. The meeting was addressed by the Revs. C. B. Symes, B.A., J. M. Charlton, M.A., Western College; W. Elliott, H. F. Holmes, Devonport; R. Leake, Wesleyan; and T. O. Page, Baptist; and Alfred Rooker, Esq. Testimonials to the amount of nearly 40l. had already been presented to Mr. Hipwood by his church and congregation, and at the meeting a further testimonial—a purse of twenty guineas—was presented to him by the Rev. J. M. Charlton, in the name of the committee of the Western College, as an acknowledgment of the valuable service rendered to that institution by Mr. Hipwood during his five year's office as honorary financial secretary. The meeting was deeply interesting, all the speakers alike concurred in an expression of regret at Mr. Hipwood's leaving, and of their appreciation of his earnest, faithful, and untiring efforts for the welfare of his people and of the town at large.

MAPLE BRIDE, STOCKPORT.—The annual meeting of the Congregational church in the above place was recently held, when it appeared from the report that since the settlement of the present pastor, the Rev. Samuel Drakford, in November, 1865, steady and constant progress had been made, and future prospects are very encouraging. Thirty-eight members have been added to the church, the congregation has largely increased, two additional deacons have been elected, a tract society has been formed, and is doing efficient service, the Sunday-school has largely increased, both as it regards teachers and scholars, and a local magazine has been started edited by the minister. The ministry of the Gospel, the Sabbath-school, the ladies' sewing meeting, the chapel incidental fund, the chapel library, the sacramental offerings, the Derbyshire County Association, the London Missionary Society, the Congregational pastors' retiring fund, and a local evangelistic station, have all been aided by collections and subscriptions; about 80l. have been expended on the parsonage and chapel premises, and within the last few weeks about 1,200l. have been promised by the congregation alone towards the erection of a new chapel which is much needed.

WORCESTER.—ANGEL-STREET CHAPEL.—The annual meeting of the church and congregation assembling in this place of worship was held on Monday evening, the 4th inst. The weather was most unfavourable, but there was a large attendance. The pastor, the Rev. J. Bartlett, presided. After tea, the reports of the institutions and agencies supported by this influential congregation were presented, from which we gather the following particulars:—There are, in connection with the church in Angel-street, seven Sabbath-schools, two in Worcester and five in neighbouring villages; five preaching-stations, viz., Omberville, Hallow, Cross Way Green, Pole Elm, and Fearnall Heath; a tract society, the distributors visiting different parts of the city; and a ladies' working society, for providing garments for the poor. The congregation supports a Bible-woman, who works in the city; and two evangelists, who visit in the villages. The voluntary agency of the church consists of nineteen village preachers; 106 Sabbath-school teachers; and sixteen tract visitors. In the village congregations there are about 500 persons; and the tract distributors visit 811 families. In addition to sustaining the home agency, the congregation has contributed to the London Missionary Society, the Jews Society, the County Association, and to the Fund for the Sufferers from the Explosions at Barnsley and Talke. The reports showed that the whole of the church work is being done most energetically and successfully, and that the institutions are in a most prosperous state. The sum contributed by the congregation for all purposes during the year was 1,809l. 11s. 7½d.

SHEFFIELD.—NEW GARDEN-STREET CHAPEL.—The foundation stone of this new place of worship, which is to be erected partly on the site of the old one, was laid on Tuesday, the 5th inst., by John Crossley, Esq., of Halifax. The old chapel was used as a mission church till the Rev. R. Stainton accepted the pastorate two years ago. During his ministry the congregation grew till the building was too small for their accommodation, and there are now some 300 communicants. The new chapel will seat 1,020 persons, and the work has been let by contract for 1,686l. On the afternoon of the day referred to there was a procession from the Temperance Hall to the site, at which there was a goodly assemblage of persons. After singing the Rev. H. Tarrant offered prayer, the Rev. R. Stainton gave an explanatory address, and the Rev. Dr. Falding spoke at some length on Congregational principles. The ceremony was then proceeded with, Mr. Crossley using a silver trowel and a rosewood mallet on the occasion, and he then addressed the assembly in some appropriate remarks. The Rev. Professor Tyte then offered prayer, and the proceedings were brought to a close with the benediction. An adjournment took place to the Temperance Hall, where there was a public tea. In the evening there was a public meeting in the same building, the chair being occupied by Mr. John Crossley, and on the platform were a large number of Independent ministers and personal friends of the Rev. Mr. Stainton. There was a very numerous attendance. After the meeting had been opened with prayer, the chairman spoke at some length. In the course of his observations, he alluded to the fact that there was not only in Sheffield but in other towns, a desire on the part of those who were tolerably well off to get outside the town, and to leave the thickly

populated parts of the town to take care of themselves. This he considered was a great misfortune and a growing evil, and he thought something should be done, as was being done in Garden-street, to sustain places of worship in those districts where the masses of the people were of necessity brought together. The Rev. H. Tarrant made a few congratulatory remarks. Alluding to the claims which the Garden-street Chapel had upon members of richer congregations, he stated that notwithstanding Mr. Stainton's congregation was almost entirely composed of working people, they had subscribed between 500l. and 600l. towards the new building. Mr. H. O. Wills, of Bristol, was the next speaker, and he was followed by the Rev. C. Short, who made some very able and pertinent remarks upon the supposed alienation of the working classes from our religious institutions.

He questioned whether there was any foundation for the statement that there was a larger proportion of the working classes alienated from church and chapel than had been the case in former days; he did not think statistics would warrant such an assumption. He believed that a larger proportion of the working classes attended the various places of worship at the present time than had been the case at any previous period in the history of their country, and he did not believe now there were those peculiar reasons that kept working men away from church and chapel which had been alleged. But without wishing to say anything that was invidious, he would remark that in many churches and chapels they could see a very plain reason why not only the working classes but those above them had not attended places of worship. The fact was the people had not been spoken to; what had been called preaching had not been preaching. (Cheers.) Theological dissertations, philosophical essays were not preaching. Things of that sort, which had been calculated to send people to sleep, ought not to deserve congregations, and never would have them. (Cheers.) Some ministers had had a very contemptuous estimate of the intellect of working men, and when they had gone to preach to what they called the uneducated, they had talked as if they had little children before them, and had acted as if it was necessary to preach down to the working man. That was a great mistake. Let ministers preach up to working men, and then they would come in greater numbers. (Cheers.) Among the subsequent speakers were Mr. R. Leader, the Rev. G. Hester, Mr. Birks, the Rev. Dr. Falding, A. Elliott, Esq., the Rev. J. Adcock, Mr. Askham, and the Rev. R. M. MacBrair. 1,000l. still remains to be raised for the new chapel to be free from debt.

Correspondence.

PROPOSED SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I concur with much that you say about the proposed measure for the separation of the Church from the State in Italy. The Roman Catholic Church has indeed every reason to be satisfied with what is called the *Voluntary system*. In England, in Ireland, in America, in China, and in innumerable other countries, the Church has extended and prospered without any aid from the State.

And in Italy the Church has received from the State of late years nothing but persecution. Cavour and Rattazzi made the grand mistake of getting the civil Government into collision with the Church. Ricasoli seems to have understood that mistake.

But what I dispute is the right of the "Italian Government" to take possession of all the property of the Church for purely financial purposes. If that property had been given by the State, it might have been argued (rightly or wrongly) that it was public property. But it was given by founders and benefactors, and given in very recent times. Some of those founders and benefactors are now living. Is it just to take away their gifts, and use the property merely for ways and means for the revenue of the State? Supposing in this country the Wesleyan Methodists were made the Established Church. Would that justify the Government in confiscating the property of all their chapels, schools, colleges, and foundations, and selling them to pay the proceeds into the exchequer? This is a fair illustration of the case in Italy. It seems to me that the seizure of the property of the Church in Italy is irreconcilable with the very principle of the sacredness of property which it is a principal object of civil society to secure.

I am convinced, moreover, that the large amount of property of the Church in Italy stated by the Government does not exist. I know the poverty of the Italian bishops. I believe the statement of the Minister to be an attempt to prop up the credit of the Government. The result of the robbery of the Church will do very little good to the Government. Some years ago all the property of the Capitular bodies was seized and confiscated by the Government. The result was a great disappointment. The property was found to be very much below the Government estimate, and the greater part of it was devoured and consumed by the Government officials. The same result will occur now. It will be found that the property is very far below the estimate. And a great part of what is realised will be spent in jobs and salaries and other expenses. The Italian exchequer will benefit very little by the proposed violation of the rights of property. Nothing like the gross sum of six hundred millions of francs will be realised. I have met with no one acquainted with Italy who believes in the existence of that amount of ecclesiastical

property in Italy. And whatever good result is obtained, it will be most seriously cut down by the outgoings—the expenses of administration and jobs and salaries.

I hope you will publish this letter.

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BOWYER, M.P.

Temple, Feb. 7, 1867.

THE SERMON TO WORKING MEN AND THEIR WIVES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The promoters of the recent Conference with working men on religious matters are desirous of drawing the attention of the ministers of the Gospel to Mr. George Potter's suggestion that a special sermon to the artisans of England should be preached on Sunday evening, the 24th of February. The interest of the higher class of workmen has been so much excited by the late meeting and discussion, that it is highly probable they would respond in large numbers to a special appeal of this description. It is hardly necessary to add that the object of such an address should be, not to deal with the pretexts by which they attempt to excuse or justify their indifference and irreligion, but to set before them the Divine authority of Christianity, and a simple statement of its chief characteristics, as having the promise of both worlds. The success of such a movement would depend greatly on the distribution, by each minister, of a direct invitation to the men, to be circulated in the workshops, and in this effort the city missionaries and Scripture-readers could render efficient aid. Even those who generally object to "class preaching" may perhaps on such an occasion forego their scruple.

I take this opportunity of reminding your readers of the power of the press as well as of the pulpit. The penny Report of the Conference at the London Coffee-house—much expanded—is now ready, and its immediate and gratuitous distribution by all our churches in the workshops (of their own neighbourhoods would greatly assist in preparing the men to answer the invitation for the 24th inst.

If there are those who think that the working men at the Conference made out but a sorry case in defence of their indifference, that impression is likely to be communicated to the operative community by the circulation of this report. The speeches of Canon Miller and of Mr. M'Cree alone, to say nothing of the chairman's address, are fitted to do immense good among the persons whose spiritual benefit we are attempting to promote. If the Churches themselves were to read the report assuredly no harm would follow.

It is highly probable that we may not succeed in winning either skilled artisans or common labourers habitually to attend in large bodies our churches as at present managed. The preaching, the singing, the praying are alike somewhat unsuitable to their taste formed on very different models. All the more reason for gaining as many of them as we can; and, with a view to the rest, for urging forward the provision of special services in theatres, music-halls, lecture-rooms, &c., in every district, where the tone of the proceedings should rather resemble that of lively public meetings, to be addressed, perhaps, by several speakers, with an intermixture of the best kind of genuine sacred music and part-singing that can be procured.

At the present moment the operative body in all its ranks is perhaps in a more receptive and impressible state than they have been for many years. If they are approached with manliness and kind feeling, and neither with patronage nor a noisy revivalism, they will probably yield a good measure of attention. The artisans must not be confounded with the ignorant labourers.

I am, yours faithfully,

EDWARD WHITE.

Tufnell-park, Holloway, Feb. 9, 1867.

THE WORKING CLASSES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—At the recent Conference at the London Coffee-house, it was suggested by Mr. George Potter that on some early occasion special sermons should be preached—if possible, simultaneously—by the clergy of all denominations on the relations of working men to Christianity, and that such intention should in each case be made known to the non-church-going public. He also expressed his confident belief that thousands of people who rarely go to church would make a point of attending such special services. The suggestion has found much favour, and I understand that a number of ministers of the Gospel, including some clergymen of the Church of England, will endeavour to carry it out on the last Sunday of the present month (the 24th inst.). There is no time for this excellent proposal to be considered by the ecclesiastical authorities of any denomination, if it were desirable. Nor is there any need for any such formality. Every minister of religion, whether belonging to the Established Church or to the Nonconformist communities, enjoys the liberty of preaching, and I suppose it would be in the power of nearly all, as it is the intention of many, to give expression from the pulpit in their own way, to the special claims of the Gospel upon our industrial population, and especially to speak such words of loving sympathy as will, at least, help to break down unfounded

prejudices against religious institutions and the public worship of God.

It is hardly possible to overrate the beneficial effects that might indirectly result from such services being held in thousands of places of worship next Sunday week, and only a tacit understanding among Christian ministers is needed in order to accomplish the object. May I ask a little space in your columns to give further publicity to a valuable proposal which, I have no doubt, would have been cordially endorsed by the Committee that convened the late Conference if opportunity had since offered for their consideration of it?

I am, yours faithfully,

S. MORLEY,

Treasurer of the late Conference.

18, Wood-street, Cheapside,
Feb. 11, 1867.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—At the late Conference at the London Coffee-house a suggestion was made to the effect that on a certain Sunday (the last in February was mentioned) sermons should be preached throughout the kingdom on this subject. I am sorry to see no signs of this practical proposal being carried out.

No doubt the projectors of this Conference aimed at greater issues than any that could possibly be realised by a single Sunday's efforts, but, Sir, I would submit that this is no valid reason—indeed no reason at all—why an incidental advantage should not be gained at the same time that the main object is pursued.

If there were reason to apprehend that the adoption of this proposal would divert the attention of the Church from the principal end in view, viz., the establishment of better relations between ministers of religion, and one great section of the country, then it might be wise to sacrifice a smaller good to a larger one; but there can be no fear that this movement will, in its present hands, thus ignominiously miss fire, and the act of calling attention in our various churches and chapels would serve to keep the matter under the eye of the Christian public, and thus promote, rather than frustrate, the original design.

In smaller towns where no conference can appropriately be held, a simultaneous movement like this would form an admirable occasion for specially inviting working men and their wives to church or chapel, and addressing them on the question of their supposed indifference to the Gospel. If this be done, I venture to suggest—1. That circulars be sent to every working man's home, bearing the signature of all the ministers (of different denominations) of the town who will join in the undertaking, inviting attendance at any one of the places of worship where the special services are to be held.

2. That care should be taken not to charge the working classes with greater indifference to religion than exists in the higher classes; and this for two reasons—first, because it is very doubtful whether there is more irreligion in the one class than the other; and, secondly, because, even if there be, it is not very honourable to make accusations in a place where they cannot be repudiated or repelled. It is assumed that there is with them, as with others, much indifference to the Gospel, and they are to understand that they, rather than others, are invited simply because it is believed that they will accept the invitation whilst the others will not.

Little time is now left for arrangement, but there is enough, at least, to know whether anything at all is to be attempted.

Yours faithfully,

W. CLARKSON.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM, FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE SONS OF MINISTERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Allow me to call the attention of your readers to an announcement in your present number, relating to the appointment of the Rev. E. J. Evans, B.A., late of Poyle, formerly of Madras, as travelling agent of the above school.

To the many ministers and friends who are acquainted with Mr. Evans it is unnecessary to say anything in the way of commendation: to those who may not know him, suffer me to say that if they will kindly afford him the opportunity of an interview, his Christian feeling, urbanity, and tact, will at once secure for him a favourable reception, and that both on his own account and that of his object, the committee and myself beg to bespeak for him a kind acceptance and, if possible, practical co-operation.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

JOSIAH VINEY, Hon. Sec.
Highgate, February 11, 1867.

THE LATE BIRMINGHAM SCHOLASTIC INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—When the Birmingham Scholastic Institution for Sons of Ministers was dissolved some twelve months ago there was a debt of 101l. 6s. 5d. An appeal was made to the friends of the defunct institution, and we were appointed to receive donations.

We feel it due to the public to state that from various parts of the country enough has been received to discharge all claims. Thanking the donors whose kindness enables us to make this gratifying announcement.

We remain, yours obliged,

G. F. MUNTZ,

CHARLES VINCE.

Birmingham, Jan. 22, 1867.

VOTE BY BALLOT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I know that many of your readers are friendly to this question. They will be glad to hear that information on the working of the Ballot is being extensively sought for. But the committee lack funds. Will you allow me to ask those friends who do not subscribe to do so at once, and those who do subscribe to increase

their subscriptions? The Ballot Society does not interfere with the suffrage question.

Yours respectfully,

J. F. BONTEMS.

Ballot Society's Office, 61, Cheapside, London.

THE BIBLE STAND AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—You will be glad to learn that the committee of the Bible Stand at the Crystal Palace has succeeded in obtaining a large space in the grounds, opposite one of the principal entrances of the Paris Exhibition, where the Bible stand is now being erected, in which eight or ten competent missionaries—natives of as many foreign countries—will be employed to distribute gratuitously portions of the Scriptures in their several languages, so that they may read in their own tongue the wonderful works of God, and also to speak to them, as far as may be possible, of "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Our experience of the London Exhibition of 1862, when the first Bible Stand was opened, will, by the grace of God, be a great help in this new enterprise, and we may confidently look forward to a rich blessing from above upon the two million portions of Scripture we contemplate circulating.

The Bible Stand being placed in the most attractive position, will fulfil a peculiar mission, which no other agency can more easily or efficiently perform, since we draw the people to the Bible instead of sending it through colporteurs to them.

We rejoice to tell your readers that nearly four thousand different individuals have already subscribed, collected, or promised to give, more than four thousand pounds towards the cost of this work, which is not connected with any other society.

We hope this statement will suffice to commend the work, and those associated with it, to the earnest prayers of all true Christians; and may He without whom we can do nothing, and who ordereth all things well, direct the hearts of His servants to take the right steps, so that His Word may have free course, and be glorified.

We remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

THE COMMITTEE OF THE BIBLE
STAND, CRYSTAL PALACE.

Bible Stand, Crystal Palace, Feb. 8, 1867.

PARLIAMENT AND THE QUESTION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Last evening the Home Secretary stated that it is the intention of the Government to introduce two bills relative to capital punishment, this session; one of these will probably be to give effect to the recommendation of the late royal commission, that murders, should henceforth be classed under two divisions according to their degree of apparent premeditation and aggravation, the worst cases to be still capital. The other of the two bills promised is definitely stated as being intended to enact the privacy of executions in future. It is to be hoped that the opponents of the gallows will carefully watch both these measures, and call the special attention of their Parliamentary representatives to them.

Having travelled in several countries where private executions are legalised—viz., Australia, Tasmania, and the United States—I found on inquiry that their tendency was to conceal rather than lessen the evils of capital punishment; and whilst on the one hand they prevented some of the horrible scenes attendant on public executions, yet on the other they also lessened the activity of persons opposed to the gallows by removing from their observation the hateful spectacle of its application. Many consistent advocates of capital punishment also justly oppose executions in private as lessening, if not destroying, the strength of the "great moral lesson" which, they allege, is conveyed by the public spectacle of hanging human beings.

It is cheering to observe the many indications afforded of a rapid growth of public opinion towards the total condemnation of the death-penalty as diminishing instead of increasing the security of society. If that opinion be not yet ripe for complete abolition, surely there would be a large amount of cordial sympathy towards an endeavour to dispense with the peculiarly hideous sight of a woman dangling from the fatal tree. And after the recent commutation of the sentence on such a ferocious murderer as Charlotte Winsor, and of many others less atrocious—as, for instance, Constance Kent—it would be perfectly consistent with justice, as well as with public security, to consign henceforth all such persons to the permanent seclusion of a prison.

The worst madmen are safely confined for life, as at Broadmoor; they are never again liberated. And a similar final and irrevocable seclusion would be equally practicable for murderers. For want of such a system many a guilty man has been reluctantly returned upon society by jurors unwilling to incur the responsibility of an irreversible and fatal verdict.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

WILLIAM TALLACK.

5, Bishopsgate-street Without, E.C., Feb. 7.

THE TRADES UNION COMMISSION.—On Friday Mr. Walpole received a deputation of the London Working Men's Association, who waited on him to urge that men of their own class should be appointed on the Trades Union Commission. In reply Mr. Walpole pointed out that this could not be done without putting employers also upon it. Would the deputation, he asked, feel satisfied with Mr. F. Harrison being added to the Commission? General approbation was expressed of this suggestion, and Mr. Walpole subsequently said:—"The gentlemen I have selected are the late Lord Chief Justice Erle as chairman, with Lord Lichfield, Lord Eloth, Sir Daniel Gooch, M.P., Mr. Roebuck, M.P., Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., Mr. W. Andrews, Mr. James Booth, Sir Edmund Head, and Mr. Herman Merivale." The names of Mr. F. Harrison and Mr. W. Matthews have since been added.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday, Lord St. LEONARDS introduced a bill for the purpose of providing Courts of Arbitration to settle disputes between workmen and their employers. The necessity for such Courts had been certified to by a committee of the House of Commons; and the French law, which he had taken as a model for his bill, had been found to answer admirably. It was impossible to frame a law which would prevent strikes altogether; a strike was a war in which each party persistently sought victory, and the Legislature should endeavour to provide means for settling as speedily as possible the differences out of which strikes arose. He did not wish to make it compulsory on the masters or workmen to seek the aid of his proposed Courts of Conciliation; but if the parties did appeal to the Court, its decision, he thought, should be enforced. The bill was read the first time.

Lord DERBY introduced a bill nearly identical with the Public Schools Bill of last Session.

Upon the motion for an address for certain returns, Lord WHARNCLIFFE expressed a hope that the attention of the Government would be directed to the subject of inspection of mines, as the present system was very imperfect. Lord BELMORE agreed that the number of inspectors was inadequate to the task imposed upon them, and stated that the Government proposed to reappoint the Committee of the House of Commons which sat last year to inquire into the subject.

The sitting was closed at twenty minutes to six o'clock.

On Friday the Earl of MALMESBURY, in presenting a petition from certain persons interested in the Tornado and her crew, said that its subject occupied the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH brought up the following reply from the Queen to their Lordships' address on the Speech for the Throne:—

I have received with much satisfaction your loyal and dutiful Address. You may rely with confidence on my cordial co-operation in all measures which are calculated to enlarge and strengthen the free institutions of the country, to improve the administration of the law, and to promote the welfare and prosperity of all classes of my subjects.

STATE OF THE NAVY.

The Duke of SOMERSET, in moving for certain returns, entered upon a vindication of his administration of the Admiralty Department, which he conceived to have been impugned by his successor in office. He explained that a large portion of the amount voted for the Navy during the past six years had been applicable to other purposes than the construction of ships, and he justified the caution exercised by his Board in the building of new ships by the uncertainty that had prevailed as to the class of vessel that would ultimately be found most useful. He also gave explanations as to the keeping of accounts, the iron ballast used as pavement in the dockyards, and as to the regulations for manning the Navy, upon all of which points he insisted the Board over which he had presided was not deserving of the adverse criticisms that had been passed upon it.

Lord DERBY expressed a favourable opinion of the Duke of Somerset's administration, and explained some remarks of Sir J. Pakington on the present state of the navy, as intended to show the necessity for strengthening our maritime defences, and not imputing to the late Board of Admiralty any blame for a state of things which was certainly not satisfactory.

Lord GRAY recommended caution in proceeding with the construction of new vessels, observing that the transition state of naval science and the continuous and rapid changes and improvements in naval architecture rendered it unadvisable to hurry on the building of ships, which, when completed, might be found obsolete. Many millions had been wasted in that manner, for which he thought the House of Commons, rather than the Government, was responsible.

THE REFORM DEMONSTRATION.

Lord DUDLEY, referring to the Reform procession announced for the following Monday, called attention to the public inconvenience which it would cause, and to the absence of any reason for such demonstrations now that the subject of Reform was about to be considered by Parliament, and inquired what were the intentions of the Government in respect of the proposed procession.

Lord DERBY regretted that the leaders of the movement should persist in a plan which must cause great inconvenience, and possibly a disturbance of the public peace, but said that being advised that the contemplated procession, however objectionable, was not illegal, the Government would take no other steps in the matter than those incumbent upon them, of providing a force to prevent any breach of the peace, or to restore order should it be violated. At the same time, he earnestly deprecated the procession, as calculated to create angry feeling between different classes of the community.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in reply to a remark from Lord Ellenborough, explained that large assemblies of people were not in themselves illegal, but were only so when there was a well-grounded apprehension of a disturbance of the public peace.

The sitting was closed at ten minutes to seven o'clock.

On Monday a brief discussion occurred upon a motion of the Bishop of Down, for returns relating to the revenues of the Established Church in Ireland, which motion was ultimately negatived, the Government objecting that the returns were unnecessary. The sitting was closed shortly after half-past six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday Mr. Ayrton obtained leave to bring in a bill to appropriate a portion of the income of the estate lately belonging to the prebend of Finsbury, in the Cathedral of St. Paul, London, for the relief of spiritual destitution in the metropolis.

THE ADDRESS.

On the motion for the adoption of the Address, Mr. HADFIELD complained that no mention had been made of the subject of Church-rates, as to which, he said, there had been something like a pledge given in the last session of Parliament.

Mr. WALFORD thought it inconvenient, if not actually out of order, to discuss topics upon the report of the Address which were not alluded to in the Royal Speech.

The SPEAKER said the hon. member might move an amendment, but not open a discussion on subjects irrelevant to the Address.

Mr. HADFIELD submitted that he had a right to complain of an omission from the Address. (Hear, hear.) He had no wish to disturb the unanimity of any expression of respect for the Sovereign, but he certainly thought that a question which had formed the subject of debate in that House for thirty years ought not to be passed over in silence. There seemed to be a desire throughout the Speech to avoid all those ecclesiastical questions upon which the heart of the country was set. (Hear.) He therefore begged to move as an amendment—

That this House desires humbly to represent to her Majesty to regret that there has been no allusion whatever in the Royal Speech to the subject of Church-rates.

Mr. BAINE, although taken entirely by surprise by his hon. friend's motion, felt so strongly that the subject of Church-rates ought not to be passed over in silence, especially after the measure introduced last year by the leading member of the Government in that House, that he begged to second the amendment.

The SPEAKER said that the time for moving an amendment to the Address was while it was under discussion for the second reading. The question for the House was that the House do agree with the said Address. The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. M'LAREN, leave was given to introduce a bill to abolish the Annuity-tax, or Ministers' Money, in the parish of Canongate within Edinburgh, and to make provision in regard to the stipends of that parish and city.

In reply to Mr. Hibbert, Mr. WALFORD said that two bills would be brought in, one relating to crime exclusively, and the other to capital punishment.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' ENGAGEMENTS.

On Thursday, after the questions had been disposed of, Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE asked leave to introduce a bill to meet the case of railway companies in financial difficulties. He made a lengthy statement, insisting that railways having received special Parliamentary favours in order that they might benefit the public, there was a right on the part of the public to see that its interests so acquired were not jeopardised. He reviewed the difficulties in the way of dealing with bankrupt railway companies, and then proceeded to discuss the means of obviating these difficulties. One way would be to remit such companies to the Court of Chancery, where a scheme for their relief might be devised. That he did not think would be advisable. Another suggestion was that debenture-holders should be placed on the footing of mortgagees, and have power to foreclose if their interest was not paid. That would be most objectionable, because it would jeopardise the public interests. The only course he could see was to deal with each case by a special bill. But it would not be safe to leave to private individuals to bring in private bills, and the proposal he had to make was that on a requisition from the creditors of a bankrupt railway company, the Board of Trade should bring in a bill to deal with that special case. He asked leave to introduce a bill to enable this to be done.

Mr. Watkin, Mr. Milner Gibson, and Sir Roundell Palmer criticised the proposed bill adversely, and then leave was given for its introduction.

Sir S. Northcote also obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish certain exemptions from local dues on shipping and goods carried in ships.

RELIGIOUS DISABILITIES.

Sir C. O'LOUGHLIN obtained leave to bring in bills to render it unnecessary to take the declaration against transubstantiation as a qualification for any civil office, and to remove certain religious disabilities affecting some of her Majesty's subjects; on the latter of which a short conversation arose, the chief share in it being sustained by Mr. NEWDEGATE and Mr. WHALLEY.

The House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

On Friday, Mr. WATKIN gave notice of his intention to bring in a bill to define and regulate the rights of railway debenture-holders.

THE METROPOLITAN POOR.

Mr. HARDY moved for leave to bring in a bill for the establishment in the metropolis of asylums for the sick, insane, and other classes of the poor, and of dispensaries; and for the distribution over the

metropolis of portions of the charge for poor relief; and for other purposes relating to poor relief in the metropolis. He began by alluding to the attention which had been recently called to the insufficiency of accommodation provided in workhouses for inmates, and especially for the sick, and to the inquiries which had been in consequence directed by the Poor-law Commissioners. His main object in this bill was to classify the different inmates of the workhouses. He proposed that the lunatics and imbeciles should be put into a separate establishment, and he took power in the bill for the erection of a building for that purpose; he proposed also that the children should be sent to separate schools; to remove from the workhouse infirmaries the fever and small-pox cases, and that a building should be erected capable of containing from 700 to 800 of these patients. With regard to the children, almost all the metropolitan parishes had already provided schools for their pauper children, there being only, he believed, six who had not done so. He did not think that he should give up the existing workhouses. There were twenty-four of these workhouses that might be easily adapted for all those classes of poor that would be left, but he should insist on the treatment of the sick being on a different system, and under different management from that of the other inmates. He also proposed that the Poor-law Board should have power to appoint nominees to sit on the board of guardians, the number not to exceed one-third of the whole body of guardians. They would be appointed partly with a view to visitation and inspection, and they would be persons rated at not less than 100*l.* a-year, and be of a rank from which justices of the peace were chosen. He proposed that, if proper arrangements could be entered into, these hospitals for the fever and small-pox patients should be made medical schools, as by that means there would be an inspection more effectual than any other that could be provided. Believing that a great deal of pauperism began with the sick, he proposed, with a view of preventing this, that dispensaries should be established in different parts of the metropolis, and that in all the cases the medical man should give a prescription, as was done in Ireland; and in order to carry this out it would be necessary that the Poor-law Board should have power over the contracts with the medical officers. Another provision was to do away entirely with the local acts by which the administration of relief to the poor in some metropolitan parishes was governed, and that those parishes should be brought under the Poor-law Board the same as the others. He had been asked by a great many deputations if he would propose an equalisation of the poor-rates in the metropolis. He was not prepared to propose that, but he was prepared to do a great deal towards distributing the charge. He proposed that the salaries of the medical officers and the charges for registration and vaccination should be thrown on the common fund, and also the expense of the children's schools; and as an illustration of the effects of all these changes, he stated that the increase of the rate in the City of London Union would be 3*d.*, and that St. George's, Southwark, which now paid 3*s.* in the pound, would be relieved to the extent of 1*s.* The cost of the new buildings that would be required he estimated in round figures at 400,000*l.*, the money to be borrowed and repaid at the rate of 40,000*l.* a-year, which was about what a rate of two-thirds of a penny in the pound would produce. The bill also gave power to the Poor-law Board to appoint proper officers when the guardians refused to appoint them, instead of their being obliged now to proceed by mandamus; power was also given to appoint a receiver of the common fund, and he pointed out that by means of this power they would be enabled by a rate of only one penny in the pound over the whole of the metropolis to raise 60,000*l.* for the relief of any extraordinary destitution that might arise in the metropolis.

Mr. AYRTON expressed his satisfaction with the bill, and said he was content that they should arrive at the equalisation of the rates by degrees. After a few observations from Lord Enfield (who apologised for the absence of Mr. Villiers), from Dr. Brady, Mr. Looke, and Mr. Alderman Lusk, all in favour of the bill, leave was given to bring it in.

TRADES UNIONS.

Mr. WALFORD moved for leave to bring in a bill for facilitating in certain cases the proceedings of the commissioners appointed to make inquiry respecting trades unions and other associations of employers or workmen. He said he had been waited upon by deputations, both from masters and trades unions, asking for extraordinary legislation in order to detect and punish the perpetrators of what were called the trade outrages at Sheffield, and Government had determined to issue a commission of inquiry; and considering the present uncertain state of the law with regard to trades unions, that the commission should extend its inquiries into trades unions generally. The bill gave power to inquire into the acts which had been perpetrated at Sheffield, to examine witnesses on oath, and, where evidence was given, to give an indemnity for the penalties that might attach.

A lively discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. T. HUGHES pointed out that by a recent decision these societies, which were to a great extent benefit societies, were put out of the protection of the law. Mr. GOSCHEN and Mr. NEATE doubted the policy of mixing up the Sheffield outrages with the inquiry. Sir F. CROSSLEY expressed a doubt whether much good would result from the commission, and said he looked rather to public opinion and to the

exercise of discretion both by masters and workmen. Mr. W. FOSTER said what they wanted was not a representative, but an impartial commission; and he was glad that a bill had been introduced into the other House for the establishment of courts of conciliation. Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY obtained leave to bring in a bill to remove some defects in the administration of the criminal law, one of the objects of the bill being to allow the expense of witnesses for the defence.

Mr. LAWSON obtained leave to bring in a bill to open the professorships of anatomy and surgery, chemistry and botany, in the University of Dublin, to all persons, irrespective of their religious creed.

The House then adjourned at twenty minutes before ten o'clock.

On Monday, the attendance of members was very large. Immediately prayers had been said, a ticket was affixed to every seat, as a sign that the place had been secured for the evening, and subsequently three or four hon. members were obliged to content themselves with sitting room on the floor. The Peers mustered in considerable force to hear the propositions of the Government with respect to Reform. The Speaker's and Strangers' Galleries were completely filled, and the rising of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was awaited with evident interest. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Teck, occupied seats under the gallery.

Major JERVIS gave notice that on Thursday next he should ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer a question with reference to the arrest of certain officers in her Majesty's service in connection with a court-martial at Morant Bay.

BUNHILL-FIELDS BURIAL-GROUND.

Mr. CRAWFORD asked whether the Government were aware that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had received from the Corporation of the City of London an offer "to undertake the charge of the Bunhill-fields burial-ground as trustees for the public, defraying the cost of watching, maintaining, and keeping it in a proper condition, planting trees and shrubs, keeping up the gravel walks, and preserving tombs, so that it may form, within proper hours, and under proper regulations, a decent and ornamental open space of the metropolis, covenanting that, in event of failure in these respects, it should revert to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners," and that such offer had been declined by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Mr. WALFORD said some such application was made some time ago, but there were large claims made upon the City of London in reference to the subject, and a vast deal of negotiation had been going on upon it. Certain correspondence would shortly be laid upon the table which would give the hon. gentleman further information on the subject.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

The paragraph of the Queen's Speech relating to the representation of the people having been read at the table,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who was loudly cheered by his supporters, proceeded to give his promised explanation of the Ministerial views, reminding the House at the outset that in the paragraph just read her Majesty appealed to them to divest themselves of all party spirit in dealing with this question. The meaning the Government attached to this paragraph was that Parliamentary Reform ought no longer to be a question which should decide the fate of Ministries (here there was a slight laugh from below the gangway on the Opposition side), and for this reason—that all parties had attempted to deal with it—in 1862, '54, '59, '60, and '66—and had failed. In a long and elaborate retrospect of the Reform question Mr. Disraeli traced to the disfranchisement of the labouring classes in 1832 the seeds of the present demand for a change, of which Sir R. Peel had warned Earl Grey at the time, and while repudiating the idea that the claims of the working classes had been treated in the House of Commons in a disrespectful or dilatory spirit—the fault he found was that they had been met too often in an Epicurean tone, which would do anything for present quiet—he denied that any scheme had yet been introduced which was calculated to settle the controversy. As it was the House of Commons—not a political party or any political leader—which had disturbed the settlement of 1832, so it was the House of Commons, and not any party, which had baffled every effort to pass a new Reform Bill. When that attempt at disturbance was commenced the Conservatives determined not to make opposition to Parliamentary reform a principle of action, and they had never opposed the second reading of any of the bills introduced since 1850; nor did the question, he asserted, assume a party character until the vote of 1859 on Lord Russell's resolution. The House of Commons, therefore, had incurred a peculiar responsibility in this matter, and was it not wise to consider whether it could not pursue a course which, while not relieving the Government from its due share of responsibility, would insure them against a repetition of former mishaps? This advantage might be attained if the House would give the Government some intimation of its views on the main points of the controversy by resolutions, before a bill was introduced—a course, as he showed, which was constitutional, justified by successful precedents, would not lead to delay, and which, though to require too much precision would be unreasonable, need not entail vagueness and uncertainty. The Government would to-day lay on the table the resolutions they proposed for this

purpose, and in shadowing out the chief of them he intimated that rating, not rental, would be the basis of the franchise; that there would be a reduction both of the county and borough franchise, though the precise limit, depending as it did on so many other points to be subsequently settled, could not be stated in the resolution. The Government would proceed in their task of reconstructing the House of Commons on the principles of the British Constitution; they would sanction no course which would alter the characteristics by which it had risen to its present pitch of power (not enjoyed, as he showed, by any of the democratic assemblies of foreign countries), and would strenuously contend that the electoral franchise must be considered a popular privilege, not a democratic right. Notwithstanding the violent and pernicious doctrines recently circulated, he hoped the House would agree to resolutions in unison with these views. On the important question of redistribution of seats, resolutions would be proposed in harmony with the principles by which the vast and varied interests of the empire secured a representation in the House, the Government being fully conscious that by any attempt to obtain artificial symmetry the character of the House might be changed, and its authority destroyed. The resolutions would lay down that no borough should be wholly disfranchised, except in cases where systematic corruption was proved; that representation should be extended to boroughs now unrepresented whose circumstances demanded it; and would provide for the extension of boundaries. On this last point Mr. Disraeli dwelt at some length, arguing that, as the 11,500,000 county population was represented by 162 members, while the borough population of 9,500,000 had 324 members, the county population had a right to complain if their representation was interfered with by the borough population—an injustice now existing, and which would be increased by the proposed reduction of the county franchise—from the overflow of many boroughs beyond the boundaries fixed in 1832. Halifax, for instance, if its boundaries were not widened, would contribute to the constituency of the West Riding a large band of voters whose sympathies and interests were borough, not county. At the same time he repudiated any desire to prevent the blending of country and urban populations which was inevitable and desirable—the Government only intended to remedy an injustice; and he defended himself from the imputation of endeavouring to eliminate all independence from the county representation and to hand it over to the landlords and farmers, showing that while these classes, including farm-labourers, only amounted to 2,000,000, there remained in the counties over and above them a scattered village population, as it was statistically called, of 7,000,000—the backbone of the country, including that most valuable of all classes, the county freeholders. The course the Government had chosen was not flattering to themselves, but they deemed it more honourable to take a part, however humble, in the settlement of this controversy, than to bring in a mock measure which party spirit would not have allowed to pass. They were not angling for a policy, they had a policy of their own; and though they were prepared not to shrink from the main points of it, they would receive any suggestions or any assistance in a candid spirit. Mr. Disraeli concluded with an eloquent peroration as follows:—

Of course it would be very agreeable to us to bring forward at once a complete measure, backed by a confiding majority, and having the assurance of settling a question which engages the attention of a great nation. None of my colleagues pretend to be superior to

The last infirmity of noble minds.

But, Sir, this is not a time in which we are to consider the complacency of Ministers, or even the pride of parties. (Cheers.) I earnestly hope that the House of Commons will rise to this occasion. I earnestly hope that the House of Commons, in unison with that gracious speech which her Majesty delivered to her Parliament, authorised by antecedent circumstances, and urged by the necessity of the case, will divest itself of party feeling and give her Ministers on this, if on no other occasion, the advantage of their co-operation and their cordial support. Sir, some sharp things have been said about the House of Commons since we parted in the summer—(a laugh)—some sharp things, not with reference merely to its present character, but to its past conduct, which I thought had been accepted, sanctioned, and embalmed by history. I do not doubt that this human institution is not free from the imperfections of humanity. It is possible that there may have been periods when the integrity even of the House of Commons might successfully have been impugned. I know well—we all know that there have been times when its conduct has been unjust, violent—even tyrannical. If you search our records, unquestionably you will find conclusions on many subjects that are at variance with those doctrines which are the happier appanage of our more enlightened times. But, Sir, there is no greater error than to judge the morals of one age by the manners of a subsequent one. (Cheers.) There is no greater error than to decide upon the passions of perilous times with the philosophic calmness of a sure security. (Cheers.) There is no greater error than to gauge the intellect of the past by its deficiencies, not by the slow progress of human systems. Those who take a larger and nobler view of human affairs will, I think, recognise that, alone in the countries of Europe, England now for almost countless generations has, by her Parliament, exhibited the fair exemplar of free Government, and that in the course of the vicissitudes of her heroic history she has chiefly by this House of Commons maintained and cherished that public spirit which is the soul of commonwealths, without which empire has no glory, and the wealth of nations is a thing of corruption and decay. (Loud cheers.) Sir, I move that on the 25th of February this House will resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to

take into consideration the 2nd and 3rd of William IV., cap. 45. (Loud and continued cheering.)

Mr. GLADSTONE (who was greeted with loud cheers from the Opposition), after remarking on the novelty of the proposed procedure, the success of which, he observed, would not be furthered by Mr. Disraeli's assumption that the Reform question ought no longer to involve the fate of Ministries—for, though the House might have incurred a heavier responsibility on this than any other subject, the responsibility of Government was not diminished—said that, though his prepossessions were against it, he should not object to proceeding by resolutions if, when they were produced, they formed a plan which the House could use either by adoption or alteration as a means of settlement.

The very same motives which would lead me to co-operate with the utmost anxiety with the right hon. gentleman, namely, the desire for the speedy settlement of this question, would likewise lead me, I frankly say, to offer the most determined opposition to any method of proceeding which had for its object, or was likely to carry it into the far future. (Cheers.) We cannot afford to go on in this country as we are now. It is time that this discord of class and class, or this tendency to discord, this incipient of discord, this representation of separate interests, this appeal to separate interests, from which the speech of the right hon. gentleman, whatever is recommended in the speech from the throne, was not altogether free—it is time that this should cease; and it is not until this controversy is disposed of that we can hope to see the people of England in the sense in which they ever should be a unit of people. (Cheers.) The right hon. gentleman told us to-day why he thinks it is better to proceed by resolution; but I think it will be better, in the first instance, to satisfy ourselves with respect to whether the resolutions of the right hon. gentleman do really constitute a plan. That is a vital question. (Hear, hear.) If they do constitute a plan upon which we can either agree or join issue, then I do think that their discussion will promote the great question now pending, and no objection can be taken, so far as I know, to the mode of proceeding. That is a question which will dispose of the point by whom this matter shall be conducted, the object being to make progress upon the subject with that rapidity which the country is entitled to expect; but if other questions are introduced which will have a tendency to delay the raising of the great issue between us, the right hon. gentleman cannot expect that we would be parties to such a proceeding as that, which would be an actual betrayal upon our part of the public interest; and we certainly could not consent to the adoption of resolutions if we found them not to be such as tended to the production of measures, but declarations preliminary to the consideration of measures, tending to produce doubt and uncertainty, to diminish the confidence of the people in Parliament, and to adjourn a conclusion at which, upon every ground, it is desirable that we should without delay arrive. The right hon. gentleman asked the question, on what principles was it that the House of Commons was to be reconstructed, and he insisted that it ought to be on the principles of the British Constitution; then spreading his wings for an extended flight, he travelled east and west, and gave us an account of the representative chambers of foreign countries. Sir, I am very doubtful of the wisdom of these somewhat self-complacent references. Our reviews of them are not always altogether accurate, and do not always carry upon their face the stamp of impartiality. Were this the time and place, I should feel inclined to challenge some of the statements of the right hon. gentleman; but even if those statements were perfectly accurate, I cannot think that much is to be gained by comparisons of this nature, especially because I must say I think the right hon. gentleman has been engaged to a certain extent in combating a phantom. (Hear, hear.) I entirely deny that at any period or during any government this House has at any time proposed to deal with the question of Parliamentary reform otherwise than upon the principle of the reduction of the franchise. (Cheers.) We have been ready at all times, and were so last year, to contend for that. It was upon this principle that we stood, and on it we fell. It is true we may have the misfortune to be of a different opinion with regard to the construction of this or that measure, but I frankly own that it appears to me that in many of the opinions of the right hon. gentleman he departs from the principles of the British Constitution. But am I to rise and assume that I am the exclusive possessor of the key to them, and that he has abandoned all regard for them? (Hear, hear.) I ask the right hon. gentleman to enlarge his toleration so far as to believe that even though we may differ, have differed on former occasions, and may or not differ in the ulterior development of this question, we are, whether we differ or not, not less animated than he is by a regard for the glorious constitution, its rich traditions, and the noble inheritance it has left us, while we claim that consideration for ourselves which we gladly and freely afford to others. (Loud cheers.)

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. HUNT obtained leave to bring in a bill to promote Uniformity in the Assessment of Rateable Property in England and Wales, which was read a first time.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to eight o'clock.

OVEREND, GURNEY, AND Co. (LIMITED).—Vice-Chancellor Malins gave judgment on Saturday in the case in which two contributories representing 676 shareholders in Overend, Gurney, and Co. sought to have their names removed from the register of shareholders on the ground that they were induced to take shares by false and fraudulent statements in the prospectus. The Vice-Chancellor reviewed the cases which bore upon the question which had been argued before him, and decided that though the shareholders who moved to be relieved might have claims as against the directors, they were liable to the creditors, and their application must be refused. It is understood that the decision will be appealed against.

Postscript.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1867.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of CARNARVON laid on the table a bill for the confederate union of the North American Colonies, and fixed Thursday night for the second reading. A matter of much personal interest next occupied the attention of their Lordships. EARL RUSSELL presented a petition from Mr. Rigby Wason, praying that an inquiry might be instituted into charges which he made against the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Sir Fitzroy Kelly. These charges imputed to his lordship perjury and other offences of a similar kind. EARL RUSSELL, in presenting the petition, declared that he did so with great reluctance, that he had no belief in the charges that were made, and that he had no doubt a perfect answer to them all would be forthcoming. The LORD CHANCELLOR followed with a long vindication of Sir Fitzroy Kelly. He denied the truth of one and all of the charges made, and blamed EARL RUSSELL for presenting the petition. EARL RUSSELL said he had presented the petition because it came from a subject of her Majesty, and he felt that if petitions were refused to be presented by their lordships it might be said that they were closing their doors against the just complaints of the people. He expressed his entire disbelief of all the charges, and said he should withdraw the petition. LORD DERBY approved of this course, and the petition was withdrawn. Subsequently the Metropolitan Traffic Regulation Bill was read a second time, and the House adjourned at a quarter to seven o'clock.

In the House of Commons there was a large attendance of members to hear Mr. Walpole's account of what had been done at Chester. MR. WALPOLE spoke of the matter very seriously. He told the House how, having received information on Sunday from Liverpool that a Fenian rising was imminent, he sent down a messenger; how he had received alarming telegrams from the Mayor of Chester; how he had sat up till after four o'clock that morning waiting to receive a telegram from the general commanding the district; and how he had sent off the Fusilier Guards to Chester. The narrative was interrupted not unfrequently by bursts of laughter, which were not lessened by the suggestion subsequently made that the whole affair was a hoax, nor by a telegram which Lord Elcho read from Earl Grosvenor treating the affair as one of some importance.

Bills were introduced—by Mr. Hardcastle, for the abolition of Church-rates; by Mr. Newdegate, for the commutation of Church-rates; by Mr. M'Cullagh Torrens, to provide better dwellings in towns for artisans and labourers; by The O'Conor Don, to extend the Industrial Schools Act to Ireland; by Mr. Coleridge, to provide for the abolition of religious tests in connection with academical degrees in the University of Oxford; by Mr. Watkin, to afford better security to the holders of railway debentures; by Sir C. O'Loughlin, to improve the tenure of land in Ireland; and by Mr. Neate, to exempt associations of workmen from certain disabilities during a limited time.

A Select Committee was appointed, on the motion of Mr. ARNOLD, to inquire into the local government and taxation of the metropolis.

Some other unimportant business was disposed of, and the House adjourned soon after half-past six o'clock.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Very little English wheat was received fresh up to our market to-day. For both red and white parcels there was a fair average demand, and the advance obtained on Monday was established. The quality of the supply was but middling. We were fairly supplied with foreign wheat. Choice Russian qualities moved off freely, at full prices. Inferior sorts were dull, but not cheaper. In floating cargoes of grain the transactions were on a moderate scale, at steady prices. The supply of barley, which was good, was chiefly composed of foreign parcels. The inquiry was far from active, at late rates. Malt was in good supply, and limited request, on former terms. In oats sales progressed slowly, at about stationary prices. Very few transactions took place in beans, and where sales were forced, prices had a drooping tendency. Peas were dull, at late quotations. The flour trade ruled quiet. The top price of town-made was 51s. 1s. for 280 lbs. Agricultural seeds were in improved request. Linseed, rapeseed, and cakes were dull.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, ISLINGTON, N.—Number of patients for the week ending Feb. 9, 1868, of which 278 were new cases.

HOMOEOPATHIC TREATMENT OF CHOLERA IN LIVERPOOL.—The report of the Liverpool Homoeopathic Dispensary, read at the annual meeting on Thursday, gives some important and interesting facts relative to the treatment of cholera cases. It appears that of 99 cases of Asiatic cholera there were 85 recoveries and only 14 deaths; of 156 cases of choleraic diarrhoea treated, there were no deaths; of 83 cases of choleraic cramps in the stomach, no deaths; of 14 choleraic vomitings, no deaths; 87 ordinary diarrhoea, no deaths; 29 dysenteric diarrhoea, no deaths; 26 ordinary English cholera, no deaths. Of 527 cases of general disease, including typhus, treated, there were 10 deaths. During the year 1866 the attendance of patients at the dispensary was 45,336, the daily average being 145. This shows a considerable increase over the previous year. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. Dr. McNeill.

WORKING MEN AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

The report of the Conference at the London Coffee-house has been greatly expanded for the purpose of publication as a tract for general distribution. Many of the speeches that were previously abridged, are now printed in extenso. The pamphlet extends to fifty-two pages of well-printed matter. Price One Penny, or 7s. 6d. per hundred. Now ready.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Edward Moore."—We thank him for his letter, which is certainly *ad rem*. But, on the whole, we think the little difference of opinion had better stop. For ourselves, we may add, we are too old to be thin-skinned. Character and conduct, in the long run, are not much affected by biting words.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1867.

SUMMARY.

MR. DISRAELI has given the country a fortnight to consider the Reform resolutions which he has neither properly explained to, nor yet formally laid before, the House of Commons, though he has given them to the public through the *Times*. One day, however, has sufficed to indicate their probable fate in Parliament. While the Liberals smile with contempt at this method of dealing with Reform, the Conservatives are surprised and indignant at the thirteen "intangible and misty" propositions, which are to be manipulated by a majority to which they do not belong. Their judgment is said to be one of "instant and unqualified condemnation." The *Times* mourns over Mr. Disraeli's ruined opportunity, and makes an appeal *ad misericordiam* to the House if it rejects—"as it must"—the Government proposals, to find a substitute. But would not the proper course be to depose the Ministry itself, and put in its place a Government that has a Reform policy?

While Mr. Disraeli was exalting himself at the expense of his party in the House of Commons on Monday, the Reform League demonstration was reaching its culminating point at the Agricultural Hall, where the many thousands assembled represented the tens of thousands outside who could not obtain admission. It is declared that this display of the London working classes was a failure. There were hardly more than 20,000 men in the procession from Trafalgar-square to Islington—a number somewhat less than assisted at the gathering of the trades of London in November. The chief conclusion to be drawn from Monday's demonstration is that such monster gatherings will not bear repetition too often, not that the artisans who held aloof on the occasion are apathetic about reform. If Parliament is still disposed to deal dishonestly with the question, it will not be long in learning the real feeling of the people.

Whether Chester has narrowly escaped pillage, or the Mayor of that ancient city has been cruelly hoaxed, is not yet very clear. The arrival of a large number of strangers, supposed to be Fenians, in that city on Monday produced great excitement and alarm. It was said that they intended attacking the Castle, seizing the arms and ammunition stores there, and getting across to Ireland with their booty. The citizens of Chester, at all events, quite believed the story. The local militia and volunteers were called out, special constables sworn in, and troops sent from Manchester. But the panic-stricken

Mayor, not feeling yet secure, telegraphed to the Home Office, and Mr. Walpole, on his representations, hastily sent down to Chester some 500 of the Guards, "to inspire confidence among the good." No outrages have been reported, no arrests made, and the "strangers" have quietly departed. Earl Grosvenor telegraphs that "Chester is saved." The subject was referred to at some length in both Houses of Parliament last night, though there were no substantial facts to prove Lord Derby's allegation that the city has been saved by the timely precautions which have been taken.

The Jamaica prosecutions have commenced. The chief offender, ex-Governor Eyre, remains at present unmolested, but all the week there have been preliminary proceedings going on in the Bow-street Police-court, which have not yet concluded, with a view to the committal of General Nelson and Lieutenant Brand for participation in the murder of Mr. Gordon. If these officers are arraigned for the capital offence, it is because the faultiness of our modes of criminal procedure does not admit of a less objectionable form of indictment. They are, however, to be defended at the national expense. Such has been the decision of Lord Derby's Cabinet, which has provided them with the necessary legal assistance. But was not Governor Eyre as much a State servant as General Nelson and Lieutenant Brand, and might he not also claim to be defended by the Government? The luminous and masterly speech of Mr. Fitzjames Stephens, in opening the case before Sir Thomas Henry, has put the prosecution on the right basis, and has shown how intimately the constitutional rights of her Majesty's subjects are affected by the prosecution. Mr. Stephens takes the ground that the original proclamation of martial law by Mr. Eyre was of itself illegal, and that that vice tainted the whole proceedings of himself and his subordinates. The questions thus raised are too important to be decided by a Bow-street magistrate, and ought to be set at rest by an appeal to the highest judicial authority in the realm. This consideration alone is sufficient to justify the course taken by the Jamaica Committee.

A serious crisis has arisen in Italy. Out of doors public feeling showed itself hostile to the scheme of the Government for separating Church and State, and in Parliament the committee to whom it was submitted had resolved to report against it. The objection on all sides is that the Catholic Church is placed by the Bill in too advantageous a position. It became a question whether the measure would be rejected or withdrawn. But Baron Ricasoli and his colleagues have been defeated on a motion affirming the right of public meeting, and the Chambers have been prorogued. It is not yet certain whether there will be a change of Government, or a dissolution of Parliament. But whatever the political issue, the principle of the separation of Church and State can hardly now be abandoned, and the Catholic clergy cannot again expect to obtain such favourable terms as were offered by Signor Scialoja's Bill.

King William's speech on the closing of the Prussian Chambers is only remarkable for personal egotism, and for the hint that legislative freedom is an excellent thing so long as it runs in the direction of the royal wishes. The King, however, was able to announce that the constitution of the Northern Confederation had been completed and agreed to by the representatives of the several States. The national Parliament will shortly meet at Berlin to perfect the new organisation, and the South German States have singly and collectively agreed to assimilate their military organisations to the Prussian system—the first step, probably, towards a closer union.

One more effort is, it seems, to be made to bring about a better understanding between the Republicans and President Johnson, before the meeting next month of the new and more pronounced Congress. General Banks, who cannot be suspected of Southern sympathies, is taking the lead in the negotiations. The American Legislature, having hung up the impeachment proposal, is, under the stimulus of clamorous interests, discussing a more prohibitory tariff than has ever yet obtained in the United States, and there is every probability that it will pass. Perhaps such extreme legislation will be the best cure for Protectionist theories in America.

THE SECRET DIVULGED.

On Monday night the Chancellor of the Exchequer made an enigmatic statement of the intentions of Lord Derby's Government in regard to Parliamentary Reform. Mr. Disraeli was in his most rhetorical vein. The

House of Commons listened to him with rapt attention. The report of his speech occupied seven columns of the next morning's *Times*. It was temperate—it was clever—it was, in some portions of it, argumentative—pleasant, we daresay, to listen to—interesting to read. The one thing in which it was deficient was aptness for the occasion. It reminded us of Robert Hall's description of a swinging door—"plenty of motion, but no progress." It did not advance the question a single step. It did not even disclose the views held by the Government. It announced, indeed, that Reform was no longer a question which ought to involve the fate of Ministries—that it was not an affair of political parties—that the House had made it its own, and the House alone was responsible for settling it. The Cabinet had therefore resolved to proceed by way of Resolutions—but even these Resolutions were not forthcoming till yesterday morning, so that to the last the House was without any key to the exact meaning of Mr. Disraeli's speech. That speech² remarks the *Times*, "involved the loss of a night, and it will be well if it does not involve the loss of a Session."

To the proposition of proceeding by Resolutions instead of a Bill, there is no insuperable objection, but the delay it may possibly create. As Mr. Disraeli confessed, it was a method "not flattering" to the Government. Still, if by such means the House could conveniently arrive at a more exact knowledge of what it would prefer, and of what it could carry, there is really no very substantial reason why it should not take upon itself, for the time being, the responsibility which it usually devolves upon the Government. It is certainly unusual—but so is the occasion. But with the Resolutions of the Government before our eyes, it seems foolish to argue the abstract propriety of the procedure proposed. It is quite clear that they would settle nothing. If they were all handed back to Mr. Disraeli with the unanimous assent of the House attached to them, the Bill in which he embodied them might just as likely as not prove as objectionable to the majority as if they had never been passed. They determine principles upon which all are agreed, but do not define their application—or they suggest principles which the majority are not likely to accept, and which might just as conveniently have been negatived in the committee on a Bill. They cannot be said to give an outline of a measure—and they would neither pledge the House nor the Government to any practical expression of them.

That the number of electors for counties and boroughs ought to be increased, both by reduction of the franchise, and by addition of other than pecuniary qualifications, and that no class ought to have a predominating power over the rest of the community, are propositions which may be regarded as the A B C of Parliamentary Reform. Everybody who is not an opponent of all Reform would, of course, agree to them. But what then? They guide to no definite conclusion. They would leave room for a 40% occupation franchise in counties, or seemingly sanction a 10% franchise—they would cover alike a 9% qualification in boroughs, or household suffrage. In Mr. Disraeli's hands they would be one thing—in Mr. Gladstone's another—in Mr. Bright's another. What would be the use of discussing them, or how, when they were agreed to, would the cause of Reform be advanced? The whole difference between the parties is a difference in figures—exclude these and unanimity becomes possible enough, but unfortunately also worthless. That the occupation franchise shall be based upon rates, not rents, is another resolution to which all might assent, if they could see in it the result they wish to arrive at. If by basing the franchise upon the rates the intention is to restrict it, this Resolution may be received with favour, and not less if the intention is to widen it, as in the case of those who desire the rate-book to be the register.

So again with the redistribution of seats. It may or may not be expedient not wholly to disfranchise any borough, and to supply representation to places not at present represented but entitled to be—but how is legislation forwarded or facilitated by merely declaring it? When a Bill founded upon these abstract Resolutions is brought forward, will its detailed arrangements be any more likely to commend themselves to acceptance? No doubt, provision should be made for the better prevention of bribery and corruption, but the House will not be in a better position for assenting to a measure having this object in view because it has declared that some measure is desirable. Surely it would be possible to assimilate the system of registration of voters in counties to that which prevails in boroughs, to diminish the distance which voters have to travel, to make payment of expenses in

bringing voters to the poll illegal, and if it is thought fit, to allow of votes being recorded by means of polling-papers duly signed and authenticated, without waiting to discuss and pass abstract resolutions on the respective subjects. Nor is it at all probable that the principle of plurality of votes, whether propounded in a Resolution or a Bill, will be accepted, even with a view to "the settlement of the borough franchise on an extensive basis."

We have now touched upon most of the Resolutions to be proposed. We candidly profess our inability to see how anybody is to gain the slightest definite notion of what the Bill may be that may be founded upon them, or how the passing of them, even if they were passed *en bloc*, could forward in any way the settlement of the question. We can hardly comprehend how the Opposition can acquiesce in being thus trifled with. That Mr. Gladstone will not sanction delay he has declared with sufficient emphasis. What course will best prevent it will require mature consideration. But it now seems hopeless to expect a measure of Parliamentary Reform which shall satisfy the moderate expectations of the country from an obviously unwilling Government. Ministers may offer to carry into effect the expressed wishes of the House—but if they are thus trusted, they must be furnished with much plainer directions than these Resolutions will give them. On the whole, we are afraid that the old proverb will receive a new illustration—"You cannot weave a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

THE METROPOLITAN POOR.

At length this great, difficult, and urgent subject has been fairly brought under the notice of Parliament by the President of the Poor Law Board, who, on Friday last, obtained leave to bring in a Bill relating to it. We have not yet had an opportunity of making ourselves acquainted with the details of the measure, but its leading provisions were so clearly stated by Mr. Hardy in his introductory speech, that it would be affectation to plead inadequacy of materials as a reason for reserving our judgment of the general character of his proposals. So far as the Bill carries him, the right hon. gentleman has steered his way between the Scylla and Charybdis of pauper management with praiseworthy caution and with great dexterity. That he has stopped short of ultimate justice in the matter was perhaps wise, seeing that a complete equalisation of metropolitan poor-rates, and a centralised administration of relief for the poor, constitute too sweeping a change of the existing system to stand a chance of being carried by a *coup de main*. But Mr. Hardy has proceeded some considerable way in the direction indicated, and should Parliament sanction the scheme he has proposed, and experience demonstrate its practical value, a further extension of its principle will be comparatively easy. The advance he is prepared to make is of a tentative nature, but he is ready to push it quite far enough to meet present exigencies, and to place the future of the question in a very favourable position.

The title of the Bill sufficiently describes its object. It is a measure "for the establishment in the metropolis of asylums for the sick, insane, and other classes of the poor, and of dispensaries, and for the distribution over the metropolis of portions of the charge for poor relief," &c. There are thirty-five workhouses in London, and the aggregate number of their inmates varies from 25,000 to 30,000 persons. Of these the able-bodied are returned at 889 men, and about 2,000 women. The number of temporarily disabled are 7,046; of old and infirm, 13,685; of children above two years of age, 2,150; and of infants, 1,015. Of these 28,795 inmates, 1,977 are described as "imbeciles and idiots." The chief improvements requisite in the management of these classes of the metropolitan poor are greater cubical space, increased ventilation, and a much more complete classification of workhouse inmates. Mr. Hardy proposes that all the children above two years of age shall go to separate schools—a plan which was earnestly recommended by the Education Commission of 1861—and that lunatics and imbeciles shall be segregated from the general body of the in-door paupers and removed to separate establishments. With regard to the sick, the President of the Poor-law Board rejects the suggestion of building some half-dozen large hospitals, first on account of the great expense they would entail; secondly, because great establishments of the kind are generally troubled by what are called "hospital diseases," and lastly because they would be less accessible to the patients. He prefers therefore that the sick should be treated in the present workhouse infirmaries, under an improved system of inspection and management.

The fever and small-pox patients are not to be taken into the infirmaries, but to be removed to proper hospitals for separate treatment. These average between seven and eight hundred. For the more efficient superintendence of workhouse infirmaries, he proposes to introduce nominee guardians, to be appointed by the Poor-law Board—magistrates, or gentlemen whose rent amounts to 100*l.* a year—not, however, to exceed a third of the whole number; to employ a class of paid nurses; to institute medical schools in connection with the infirmaries; to open dispensaries for medical stores instead of requiring medical men to furnish their own drugs, and to require written prescriptions for all the medicine administered;—and, finally, to place the whole under the authority of the Poor-law Board, who are to have power to appoint proper officers in case the guardians decline doing so. These provisions appear to us well calculated to secure not merely a decent, but a careful, humane, and efficient treatment of sick paupers.

Coming now to that part of the measure which relates to the redistribution of charges, we may observe that Mr. Hardy proceeds upon the principle of the Union Chargeability Act—that is, he assigns a number of expenses to a common fund to be created by an equal metropolitan rate. To this fund he will charge (1) the lunatics and imbeciles; (2) the salaries of medical officers and dispensers of medical stores; (3) the salaries of all officers (not being assistants or collectors) actually engaged in the administration of the Poor-law; (4) fees of registry and vaccination; (5) small-pox and fever hospitals; (6) children's schools. The amount of these charges is estimated at 60,000*l.*, and a penny rate on the metropolis would raise 61,000*l.* For the erection of lunatic asylums, schools, small-pox and fever hospitals, and the enlargement of workhouse infirmaries, a capital sum of about 400,000*l.* will have to be sunk, and be recouped in yearly sums, of which the first would be 40,000*l.*, the subsequent sums less, which would require two-thirds of a penny in the pound over the metropolitan area. Mr. Hardy also suggests—though no provision for carrying it into effect is contained in the Bill—that in the event of any sudden and extraordinary calamity, power might be given to the Poor-law Board to raise a general rate, not exceeding a penny in the pound, over all the parishes of London, and thereby place from 60,000*l.* to 70,000*l.* at the disposal of the authorities for the relief of the afflicted.

The measure, then, it will be seen, deals only with the workhouse poor, and does not meddle with out-door relief, which, after all, is the burden whose inequality of pressure is most felt. Still, it is so far a most valuable improvement in the management of the metropolitan poor, and, if accepted, will facilitate further advances. Mr. Hardy's exposition of the main features of the Bill was well received, and whatever may be the fate of the Government of which he is a member, we hope this much-needed piece of administrative reform will escape the general wreck, if a wreck there is to be.

NOTES OF THE SESSION.

THE Conservative Government, with a minority of supporters in the House of Commons, are likely to be sorely tried this Session with ecclesiastical questions. Mr. Disraeli has already abandoned his "no surrender" policy in this field of politics, but his followers will oblige him to be circumspect, and his numerical weakness will require to be made good by the kind of dexterity he showed at the close of last Session on Mr. Gladstone's Church-rate Bill. It is pleasant to see so consummate a tactician beaten, or almost beaten, on his own ground. When the report on the Address was brought up on Wednesday, the second day of the Session, Mr. Hadfield quite unexpectedly moved an amendment expressing regret that no allusion was made in the Royal Speech to the subject of Church-rates. The Government were in a provoking dilemma. Their friends in the House were few; their opponents numerous and ready to push their advantage. Only the interposition of the Speaker, who ruled that Mr. Hadfield was technically out of order, saved them from defeat. But they have yet to encounter Mr. Harcourt's Abolition Bill, read a first time last night; and Mr. Coleridge's measure for removing tests in Oxford University, which was introduced on the same occasion. Mr. Ewart, by a small scheme of University reform, and Mr. Lawson, by urging the opening of certain professorships in Dublin University, also propose to test the liberal professions of her Majesty's present advisers. In these and other cases of a like nature, Mr. Disraeli may call, but call in vain, upon the "Cave" to come

to his rescue. The Adullamites will be unable, or unwilling, to help him.

The work of practical legislation has commenced with some show of vigour, which would be more satisfactory but for the misgiving that some at least of the Government measures will not come to maturity. They are but the side dishes provided by the bill of fare for the Session, and will be apt to be neglected while Parliament is busy with the *pièce de résistance*—Reform. We do not see, however, why Mr. Hardy's Bill relative to the poor of the metropolis should not, after its cordial reception on Friday night, be pushed through speedily, for the evils connected with workhouse infirmaries are too serious and dangerous to be allowed to continue. Sir Stafford Northcote's scheme for meeting the case of railway companies in financial difficulties is more perplexing, in consequence of the difficulty of reconciling the interests of the public with those of railway creditors. The right hon. gentleman proposes that bankrupt railways shall be handed over, not to the Court of Chancery, but to the Board of Trade, which department is to bring a special Bill into Parliament to deal with each case as it arises. But railway directors seem to have as little liking for Somerset House as for Chancery-lane, and it is evident that if Sir Stafford Northcote is to make progress with his Bill, it will be by dint of hard fighting.

Grave as are the objections to the growing habit of evading difficult questions by handing them over to Commissions, the proposal of the Government to inquire into the whole subject of trades unions and other associations between employer and employed, in connection with the special investigation into the Sheffield outrages, is reasonable and necessary. Happily this is no party question, and both sides of the House, though—or perhaps we should because—indisposed to deal in a proper spirit with the claim for popular enfranchisement, are all the more anxious to make some concession to our artisans. It is greatly to the credit of our working men that they court inquiry into their societies, as well as ask to be protected by legislation from the results of the recent decision which virtually puts trades unions outside the pale of the law. Mr. Walpole's Bill, introduced on Friday night, is simply intended to facilitate this inquiry. Mr. Lowe's curiosity to see the inside of a trades union is thus in a fair way of being gratified. We imagine the view will disappoint his expectations. The case of the operatives will be well represented by Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Walpole has, in a wise spirit of conciliation, consented, at their suggestion, to add the name of Mr. Frederic Harrison to the Commission. It is not unreasonable to hope that one good result of the inquiry will be to show the benefit of partnerships of industry, the multiplication of which, combined with some such courts of arbitration as Lord St. Leonards proposes, would probably go far to put an end to strikes, and to lessen the chronic antagonism between capital and labour.

The first of many debates that "loom in the distance," on the state of the Navy, took place in the House of Lords on Friday. The Duke of Somerset stood forward to vindicate his administration of the Admiralty, and obtained something like a verdict of acquittal from the Earl of Derby at the expense of the present First Lord, whose mania for more ironclads seems to be rather checked by his colleagues. His grace made, as they all do, a stout defence; but he did not explain how it is that, with an annual expense of ten millions, the nation gets so inadequate a return for its money. Nobody can solve the problem without adopting the conclusion that the navy department—though it does not stand alone in this respect—is a conglomerate of vested interests which sets at defiance First Lords and Secretaries alike. Earl Grey says it is all the fault of the House of Commons. But the House is as impotent as high officials to cleanse this Augean stable. Surely it is one of those dead-locks which requires an accession of motive power to the legislative machine to bring about a change. By-and-bye, we dare say, General Peel's scheme for creating a new army reserve will be found, for the same reason, to be as obnoxious as Sir John Pakington's naval craze.

But the time for the Minister for War is not yet come. Mr. Disraeli at present occupies the boards. His *debut* as counsel to, rather than leader of, the House of Commons in the great cause of Reform came off on Monday, and is referred to at length elsewhere. It is not yet a twelvemonth since his predecessor had a similar part to play before the same brilliant audience. But Mr. Gladstone had a real Bill to lay before the House. Mr. Disraeli, with a master's power and in pompous phrase, was fain to confess his inability to produce one, and to tranquillise an apathetic House with vague promises. The late

Chancellor's eloquence did not succeed in 1866 in convincing his auditors; nor has the present Chancellor in 1867 been able to allay apprehension. The Tories are dazed and bewildered. They are in doubt whether they are being led by their clever leader, and the Cave on one side of the House, opened with so much *selat* last year, seems likely to be matched with a Cave on the other side. In the eyes of the Tory Adullamites, Mr. Disraeli's plastic Resolutions are more to be distrusted than was Mr. Gladstone's rigid Bill. Perhaps it is the conviction that he is really "master of the situation" which has schooled the Liberal leader into his present policy of forbearance.

WHIMS.

Most of us have our whims—our likes and dislikes for which it would be difficult to find a reason—brats, sometimes very ugly and misshapen ones, of the will and the fancy, that frisk about in all sorts of inconvenient times and places, not only without the smallest deference to social opinion, but utterly heedless, also, of the annoyance and even suffering they may inflict upon others. Easy as it is to ascertain their parentage, the lineage of which on both sides they exhibit distinctly enough in their features, it is not so easy to make out their natural history beyond their birth—how and why they live so long, and upon what meat they feed that they acquire such strange tenacity of life, and exercise over us such tyrannical influence. For, whims are not habits, although it is quite possible for them to grow up into habits, nor is it of whimsical habits that we are about to speak. Our attention is limited just now to the little, ungrown, vivacious, grotesque urohins that delight to cut their capers in the path of common sense, to turn it aside from its obvious course, to get between its feet and trip it up, and to play the oddest imaginable pranks with a man, as if for no other purpose on earth than to make him look silly, and to compel his best friends to look grave.

We don't much wonder that our simpler forefathers believed in witchcraft. Certainly, it would solve many a difficulty in regard to whims, if we could but apply to them the old doctrine of possession. We should then see in a man afflicted with whims the unfortunate victim of indwelling imps taking pleasure in impelling him to the most arbitrary and capricious freaks of behaviour they could invent, and leading captive his natural reason, as bears were formerly wont to be led that they might dance and do ridiculous tricks for the amusement of the vulgar. We are half inclined to reinstate this exploded theory in our faith, and to set down whims to the impulses of sportive goblins of the juvenile class, who rejoice in a laugh at man's expense, and not the less so when there is a spice of malice mixed up with their fun. To be sure, we should have to remove several arguments of considerable weight and solidity before we could clear a sufficient space in our minds for this old-fashioned doctrine. But if we could but contrive to get it there, it might set us at rest in regard to several particulars which now perplex us. It would account, of course, for the marvellously irrational character of some of our whims, for the seemingly irresistible power which they bring to bear upon us, and for the fact that they are almost always found in greater strength in connection with some previous relaxation of mental or moral discipline in those over whom they establish their dominion.

Whims are of infinite variety in their individual character, but they all display something of a family likeness. They have an inherent antagonism to common sense, or, in other words, to sober judgment in relation to those affairs of daily life with which they meddle. Of course, therefore, they are wayward, they are intensely obstinate, they are foolish, and, they generally torment the subject of them more than they please. These are properties or qualities which belong alike to all whims. But beyond these typical characteristics, the variations are endless. There are some persons who affirm that every man has his whim—a conclusion, as we think, somewhat too general, although it probably approaches the truth. There are harmless whims, there are funny whims, there are solemn whims, and there are whims both irreligious and religious. There are whims of the intellect, whims of the temper, whims of taste, and whims of conscience. They start into existence nobody knows how, and they often disappear nobody can say why. They may be easily exorcised when they make their first appearance, but give them a little indulgence and they quickly assume a domineering air. And, in some cases, one whim, when fairly domiciled, opens

the door to others, until, at last, the mind thus invaded becomes a mere cage of them.

As we have already intimated, all whims indicate some foregoing neglect of regimen, intellectual or moral, as the case may be. There are, perhaps, a few instances in which they have their origin in a graver cause—namely, inherited constitutional unsoundness—but these we leave out of our consideration. In general, they are to the mind what pimples are to the body—eruptions which bear witness to some infringement of the laws of healthy life. They may be very trivial in themselves—hardly noticeable in fact, except under minute scrutiny; but wherever they may show themselves, and especially where they show themselves persistently, it may be taken for granted that in some particular at least, reason is suffering under unwise treatment. Hence, no curative process which is merely topical will be followed by complete success. It may indeed get rid of one whim, but another is sure to take its place. An alternative system is the only one which can reach the seat of the evil. The mind wants change of air, greater variety of diet, more regular exercise, and, in general, a more vigilant attention to the primary rules of mental hygiene, in order effectually to remove any tendency to this kind of infirmity. For, infirmity it is, however lightly we may regard it, and whims are the unsightly warnings which should attract notice to an evil which might otherwise remain latent until it has grown into unmanageable strength.

Even where no one else is troubled by a man's whim, and where it affects merely his own comfort or mode of life, it were well to take the warning it gives, and to act upon it. None of us can afford to trifle with those conditions on the conscientious observance of which a sound and duly-proportioned development of the inner life depends. It is impossible to foresee with certainty what may or may not be the ultimate result of an evil bias left to neglect. An undue culture of one intellectual faculty at the expense of the rest, an unrestrained license given to temper in any particular direction, a slight twist of the conscience in reference to one class of duties, or a divorce between the will and the reason on a point of seemingly little importance—any one of which may be signified by a whim—may, if left to take its own course unopposed, drift a man's mind into positions of frightful peril. Nobody can transgress the laws of his own being, consciously or unconsciously, with impunity—and of all the penalties exacted from the trespasser the heaviest is this, that every step which he takes in the wrong direction, not only increases his distance from right, but also adds strength to his disinclination to return to right, and multiplies the difficulties he will have to surmount when he does return.

But in very many cases, the whims of the individual inflict, sometimes discomfort, sometimes needless anxieties, sometimes positive suffering, and, occasionally, deep humiliation upon those with whom, by domestic or social ties, he may chance to be associated. They are not intended to do so—they may not even be suspected of doing so—but they do so none the less in fact. Egotism is essentially selfish, and the worst form that egotism can take it often takes in the indulgence of whims. It is a defrauding others of the consideration to which they have an indefeasible claim—a self-assertion at the expense of persons who have rights as sacred as our own—a kind of dishonest repudiation of debts of affection which, while we may admit them, we do not care to pay. One man's, or one woman's whims may destroy the peace of a family—nay, for that matter, of a neighbourhood. They are a sort of black-mail levied upon innocent victims—a thing terribly exhaustive of sympathy, as the perpetrator of the wrong is sure to discover when a flood-tide of affliction overtakes him. Love, in proportion as it is pure and disinterested, dries up the selfish humour by which whims are fed. We shall none of us carry our whims with us to heaven. That is a comfort. But might we not drop them somewhere on this side of it?

THE RESOLUTIONS UPON REFORM.

The following is a copy of the resolutions to be moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Committee of the whole House, on Monday, February 25:—

This House, having, in the last session of Parliament, assented to the second reading of a bill entitled, "A Bill to extend the Right of Voting at Elections of Members of Parliament in England and Wales," is of opinion,—

1. That the number of electors for counties and boroughs in England and Wales ought to be increased.
2. That such increase may best be effected by both reducing the value of the qualifying tenement in counties

and boroughs, and by adding other franchises not dependent on such value.

3. That while it is desirable that a more direct representation should be given to the labouring class, it is contrary to the Constitution of this realm to give to any one class or interest a predominating power over the rest of the community.

4. That the occupation franchise in counties and boroughs shall be based upon the principle of rating.

5. That the principle of plurality of votes, if adopted by Parliament, would facilitate the settlement of the borough franchise on an extensive basis.

6. That it is expedient to revise the existing distribution of seats.

7. That in such revision it is not expedient that any borough now represented in Parliament should be wholly disfranchised.

8. That, in revising the existing distribution of seats, this House will acknowledge, as its main consideration, the expediency of supplying representation to places not at present represented, and which may be considered entitled to that privilege.

9. That it is expedient that provision should be made for the better prevention of bribery and corruption at elections.

10. That it is expedient that the system of registration of voters in counties should be assimilated, as far as possible, to that which prevails in boroughs.

11. That it shall be open to every Parliamentary elector, if he thinks fit, to record his vote by means of a polling-paper, duly signed and authenticated.

12. That provision be made for diminishing the distance which voters have to travel for the purpose of recording their votes, so that no expenditure for such purpose shall hereafter be legal.

13. That a humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying her Majesty to issue a Royal Commission to form and submit to the consideration of Parliament a scheme for new and enlarged boundaries of the existing Parliamentary boroughs where the population extends beyond the limits now assigned to such boroughs; and to fix, subject to the decision of Parliament, the boundaries of such other boroughs as Parliament may deem fit to be represented in this House.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The Marquis de Moustier, at his last diplomatic reception, invited the representatives of the Powers to inform their respective Governments that the Emperor's language in opening the Legislative session on Thursday next would be completely reassuring for the maintenance of peace in Europe.

An Imperial decree has been issued determining the relations of the Senate and Corps Législatif towards the Emperor and the Council of State, and establishing the organic conditions under which their labours will be conducted. This decree, which is a modification of the decree of the 19th of January, contains no important regulation not already known.

The discussion at the sitting of the Council of State, held on Thursday at the Tuileries, relative to the reorganisation of the army, had the effect (says *La France*) of bringing forward for fresh consideration decisions which had previously been abandoned. It is now proposed simply to revive the law of 1832, and at the same time to reduce the terms of service and organise a National Garde Mobile.

GERMANY.

On Saturday the King of Prussia closed in person the Berlin Chambers. The Queen, the Crown Princess, all the royal Princes, the Count of Flanders, and the English, French, Russian, and Danish Ministers, were present. His Majesty thanked the Chambers for their co-operation with the Government, and expressed a hope that the conflict between the Ministry and the Deputies would not be renewed, adding that the Diet, by granting what had been required for the army and navy, had proved itself determined to preserve what the country had gained. His Majesty further expressed hopes that the new provinces would soon assimilate themselves with the rest of the monarchy. He concluded his speech as follows:—

The fact that the draft of the Constitution for the North German Confederation has been accepted by all the Governments gives us the assurance that from the principle of a united organisation the German people will obtain those blessings which through its inherent power and civilisation it has been designed by Providence to enjoy from the moment that it is in position to maintain peace at home and abroad. I shall deem it my greatest honour if the Almighty has called me to devote the strength of my people to the establishment of the lasting unity of the races and Princes of Germany. May God assist us in attaining this object!

His Majesty was loudly cheered.

The Constitution of the North German Confederation has been signed. The several Plenipotentiaries have had a farewell audience of the King. In compliance with the wishes of the Prussian Government, they will return to this city to be present at the opening of the North German Parliament.

The Conservative party of Berlin have proposed Count Bismark as a candidate for the second electoral circumscription of that city.

The King of Prussia has given his consent to the marriage of Princess Mary of Hohenzollern with the Count of Flanders, who has arrived at Berlin.

The southern parts of Germany annexed to Prussia will form two regencies, with seats at Cassel and Wiesbaden.

It is asserted that the Prussian troops will only evacuate Dresden when Prussia's authority to regulate the movements of all the Federal military forces shall have received indubitable and unconditional recognition.

The military conference of delegates from the States of South Germany had agreed to adopt the

Prussian military system, with the sole difference that the length of the periodical attendance at drill for the Landwehr will be shorter.

It is stated that an aide-de-camp of the King of Prussia has gone to St. Petersburg with the last instructions concerning a treaty of alliance about to be signed between the courts of Berlin and St. Petersburg.

AUSTRIA.

The Hungarian Ministry is said to have been appointed, though not officially announced.

It is considered certain that Count Andrássy will be the President of the new Hungarian Ministry, and M. Longay Minister of Finance, Count Festetics Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Baron Eotvos Minister of Justice. M. Deak declines to take office, preferring to give the Ministry his support in the Diet.

The announcement of the decision of the Government to renounce the assembling of an extraordinary Diet will, it is said, be communicated to the ordinary Diet, which meet on the 18th inst., by an Imperial Message, which will explain that, in consequence of the settlement which has been arrived at with Hungary, such an assembly is not needed. The Message, it is added, will further announce that the Emperor will convoke a Constitutional Reichsrath in accordance with the February Constitution, and that to this assembly will be submitted the new law for the reorganisation of the army, and also a Government bill proposing an amendment to the February Constitution, in consequence of the arrangement made with Hungary. The opening of the Reichsrath will take place about the middle of March. The Government bill for the amendment of the Constitution will, it is believed, propose the suppression of paragraph 13, and the introduction of a law on Ministerial responsibility.

It is said that Baron von Schmerling will be appointed Minister of Justice.

The elections for the Tyrolean Diet have resulted, in the southern part of the province, in the return of deputies who make no secret of their desire for a union of the Trent district with the kingdom of Italy. During the election the voters repeatedly passed in procession through various parts of the district, with numerous *cries* for Italy, Victor Emmanuel, and Garibaldi. A great number of arrests have been made in consequence.

ITALY.

Signor Crisani has been chosen reporter of the Committee on the Free Church and Ecclesiastical Liquidation Bill. He is instructed to oppose the bill. The committee were unanimous in rejecting the political portion of the bill, while the financial portion was thrown out by five to four votes. A proposition was introduced to draw up a counter scheme.

M. Langrand-Dumonceau has deposited 500,000 lire as guarantee for the fulfilment of his convention with the Government relative to the liquidation of the Church property.

In Monday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, Signor Mazzini's renunciation of the seat to which he had been elected in the Italian Parliament was accepted, he having declared that he could not sit in that Assembly consistently with his Republican principles.

Signori Cairoli and Debono questioned the Government with reference to its having prohibited the holding of public meetings in Venetia on the occasion of the introduction of the Free Church and Ecclesiastical Liquidation Bill. Baron Ricasoli explained that the right of publicly assembly not being clearly defined by any special law, it required to be regulated in accordance with political eventualities and the rights of the community at large. In the present case he had considered it dangerous to allow meetings for discussing such exciting topics as the Roman question or the Free Church and Ecclesiastical Liquidation Bill, especially after the disturbances which had been created in several localities by the working classes in consequence of unfavourable economical conditions. Signor Mancini made a speech, in which he expressed himself entirely opposed to the opinions of the Minister upon the question of public meeting. He then proposed that the Chamber should express to the Government their conviction that the latter would see fit to remove all restrictions to the exercise of constitutional liberty as regards public meeting, excepting when such liberty might degenerate into offences against the law or culpable disturbances. Baron Ricasoli opposed the proposal, which, however, was defended by Signor Plutino and other members, and subsequently agreed to by 136 to 104 votes.

It is stated that the Ministry have resigned. It is not known whether their resignation has been accepted.

TURKEY.

A new Ministry has been formed, constituted as follows:—Ali Pasha, Grand Vizier; Fuad Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mehmed Ruschdi Pasha, the late Grand Vizier, Minister of War and Grand Master of the Artillery; and Kiamil Pasha, Minister of Justice.

A Turkish journal assures us that the solution of the Eastern question is not to be left to the Western Powers. Turkey herself means to solve this difficult problem by emancipating the Christians and establishing good relations between them and the Mussulmans.

According to accounts from Constantinople, another body of Greek volunteers in Candia, 650 in

number, had surrendered to the Turkish troops, asking to be sent back to Greece. Coroneos and Zumbakakis were almost entirely deserted. It is stated that the Porte has invited the Cretans to send delegates to Constantinople.

It is rumoured that the Sultan proposes to introduce a representative assembly in Turkey similar to that lately established by the Viceroy of Egypt.

AMERICA.

By Atlantic telegraph we have the following items, the latest date from New York being to Feb. 11:—The House of Representatives has passed a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to report a bill to prevent the further contraction of the currency during the current year. The Reconstruction Committee has reported a bill for dividing the States which took part in the rebellion into five military districts, under military Governments. The Louisiana Legislature has rejected the Constitutional Amendment. The Bill for the admission of Nebraska in Congress as a State of the Union has been passed by the Senate over the President's veto. Mr. Banks and other Republicans urge the necessity of the adoption of some measure to secure the President's co-operation with Congress.

By ordinary advices to Jan. 29, we learn that the President's reasons for vetoing the second bill for the admission of Colorado as a State were that the territory had not the requisite population, and that the inhabitants, through their representatives, had protested against a State Government being forced upon them. He had also vetoed the Nebraska Bill, principally on the ground that negro suffrage was exacted as a condition for admission, while the regulation of the suffrage was a right fully optional with the people of Nebraska.

It was reported that the Radicals were preparing a bill providing for the temporary installation of General Grant as President during the impeachment of Mr. Johnson. The Judiciary Committee continue their deliberations on the impeachment of the President with closed doors.

Governor Parsons, of Alabama, had addressed the Legislature, strongly opposing the Constitutional Amendment.

Mr. Seward having written to Mr. Motley, the Federal Minister at Vienna, asking for an explanation of the report that he had denounced President Johnson and Mr. Seward and disparaged Democratic institutions, Mr. Motley in reply denied the truth of the report, but resigned his post.

The Louisiana Legislature has passed a resolution to call a convention to revise the State Constitution, so as to release the State from Radical rule. Governor Wells has decided that if a new Constitution is adopted, he will reassemble the Convention of 1864 to depose the present Legislature.

The freedmen near Savannah have refused to work or leave the plantations. They forcibly resisted the troops sent by the Freedmen's Bureau to remove them. The ringleader was arrested, and tranquillity was finally restored.

MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 24th of January, via New Orleans, state that the Republican authorities at Mazatlan had executed Mr. Carman, the American Consul, who had killed two Mexicans in defending his house against rioters. The commander of the Federal gunboat had demanded the punishment of the officers engaged in the execution, and this being refused, he bombarded the town. Ortega had been captured by the Governor of Zacatecas, who was in the interest of Juarez, and had been sent to Durango. Miramar was organising a desperate campaign in Queretaro. It was reported that the Emperor Maximilian was levying a forced loan.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Italian Government has definitely refused to take off the sequestration from the private property of the ex-King of Naples.

By an overland telegram from New Zealand we learn that the Maori King had signified his submission, and invited Governor Grey to visit him.

The Spanish Government has recalled the decree of exile lately issued against Marshal Serrano, and will grant a similar favour to other persons recently exiled who shall solicit it.

Mr. Roberts, formerly Senator from Texas, has computed the recent murders of negroes in that State at 2,700. At one post in the same State eight officers of the Freedmen's Bureau have, it is said, been successively murdered.

General Grant and family will visit Europe during the spring, and will sail from America in time to be present at the Paris Exhibition, provided his official duties permit him to spare the time necessary for the journey.

James Stephens is still living clandestinely in Brooklyn, changing his boarding-house frequently to escape the Fenians who are searching for him to punish his "treachery." Six Fenians, reputed to be "chiefs," sailed from New York for Havre on the 26th, but Stephens could not get off.

From Australia we have news of the discovery of another goldfield, about 280 miles from Sydney, which promises to be a very profitable one. It is also stated that traces of Leichardt's unfortunate exploring party have been discovered in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.—Letters have been received from Mr. Rassam and the other captives, dated December 10. They were all well, but were still in chains at Magdala. The Emperor was at

Gaffat. The country was almost entirely in the hands of the rebels, who intercept all letters. It was only by good fortune that the present messengers got through.

EARTHQUAKE IN CEPHALONIA.—A serious earthquake has occurred in Cephalonia. Lixuri is reduced to ruins, and the loss of life is appalling. It has been felt slightly at Zante and Patras. A vessel was about to leave Malta with provisions to relieve the sufferers.

JAPAN.—Advices from Japan state that the rice riots at Jeddo had ceased, and the price of grain had fallen. Prince Chiosin had defeated the Daimio Kokura, and holds his ground against his opponents. Distrust exists among the Daimios, and they refuse to attend the proposed Conference.

THE LATE FAMINE IN INDIA.—The members of the Famine Commission have nearly concluded their inquiries in Orissa, and will soon return to Calcutta. "It is said," remarks the *Times of India*, "they have found the result to have been under rather than over-estimated, and that the total number of deaths from starvation amounted to about 1,500,000."

THE NORTH AMERICAN CONFEDERATION AND PRINCE ALFRED.—It is reported from Ottawa that the Home Government had sanctioned the Quebec scheme of Confederation, and that a bill would be introduced into Parliament making Prince Alfred the Governor when the Confederation was accomplished. Ten additional death sentences had been pronounced against Fenian prisoners at Toronto.

THE JESUITS.—The Jesuits, according to their custom, have published the annual statistics of their society. The company reckoned at the close of 1866, four consistories and twenty provinces; the number of members being 8,167, showing an augmentation of 215 over the year 1865. In the French province there are 2,422, whereas in 1865 there were only 2,268. Notwithstanding their expulsion from Naples, Sicily, Turin, Venetia, and the Mexican empire, they are incessantly increasing in number.

THE WEST INDIES.—The hostilities between the troops and volunteers in British Honduras and the invading Indians continued at the date of latest advices. Sir Peter Grant had himself left Jamaica for Belize along with reinforcements, and had left General O'Connor in charge of the Jamaica Government. The negroes in St. Thomas-in-the-East and several other parishes have struck for higher wages.

PROPOSED ANTI-SLAVERY CONFERENCE AT PARIS.—A deputation, consisting of Mr. Chamerovsow, Mr. Pease, Mr. Joseph Cooper, the Rev. Dr. Massey, the Rev. H. Richard, waited upon the Marquis de Lavalette on Friday, to request permission to hold an anti-slavery Conference in Paris in the early part of June. The deputation was received by the Minister of the Interior with marked courtesy, and received the assurance that every facility will be given in furtherance of the object proposed.

FATHER PASSAGLIA RECANTING.—It is said that celebrated Father Passaglia has been "converted," and the faithful at Rome are in great glee. The poor ex-Jesuit has told Monsignor Ghilardi, Bishop of Mondovi, that he recognised his errors and transgressions, and desired to make reparation, condemning himself to confinement in a Carthusian convent for the rest of his days. Passaglia, though his orthodoxy in religion is above suspicion, has been deemed a heretic because he had come under the penalties ordained by Pius V., who pronounced excommunication against all who should advise the Pope to resign the temporal power.

THE RIOTS IN BELGIUM.—The intelligence from the mining districts of Belgium is meagre and not very late. The miners of Montigny-en-Sambre, who struck for higher wages, had endeavoured to induce other pitmen to join them. At Montigny some crowds assembled and assumed a menacing attitude, but were dispersed by the troops, and several arrests were made. Subsequently the rioters of Marchiennes advanced upon Roux and Jumetz. Troops had been massed in that direction. The riots were spreading on the 7th. The *Etoile Belge* says:—"We are of opinion that these disturbances will last some time longer, for as soon as the troops move to the scene of the rioting, disturbances break out elsewhere."

A MEXICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.—The *Messenger Franco-Americain* has the following:—"The *Ranchero* of Matamoras brings quite unexpected news. The liberal Catholics of the Republic speak of organising a Mexican church independent of the Holy See. Without wishing to fall into heresy, they intend to separate from the Papal hierarchy, to which they attribute the invasion of Mexico, and the attempts at imperialism. A bishop of the new Church is already elected; he is one of the most enlightened men of the Mexican clergy, Don Rafael Diaz Martinez. To predict the fate of this project would be rash, but it appears to us to be sufficiently conformable to the views of the Mexican patriots for us to believe in the possibility of its success. The new schism has received the baptism of blood. A Mexican priest, Father Hernandez, has been shot by the Imperialists of Marques for having given his sanction to the anti-Papists."

POLYGAMY IN INDIA.—We learn from the *Calcutta Englishman* that, with reference to the proposal made by the Bengal Government to legislate on the subject of polygamy amongst the Hindoos of Bengal, the Secretary of State has concurred with the Governor-General in the opinion that there is not sufficient evidence that a large majority of even the more enlightened inhabitants of Bengal will be found to be heartily against polygamy, apart from the special abuses practised by the Kulin Brahmins.

Lord Cranborne thought, therefore, that at present no measure of a legislative character should be taken. Any legislation having reference to the marriage of natives should, in his opinion, emanate from the Governor-General in Council, and no proposal for legislation on that subject, affecting so deeply the feelings both of Hindoos and Mussulmans, should be entertained without the previous sanction of her Majesty's Government.

GARIBALDI.—A correspondent of the *Inverness Courier*, writing from Florence, says:—"I must tell you a genuine anecdote of Garibaldi. When he was here in September, Depretis, the Home Minister, waited upon him in the name of the King, to request he would accept from the Treasury of a grateful country the life pension of 1,000*l.* yearly, the highest given in Italy. Garibaldi desired his thanks to his Majesty for his royal offer, but requested forty-eight hours to reflect on it. At the end of two days he accordingly sent for the Minister, and said to him, 'I have communed with my own soul, and I have said to myself, I have fought against tyranny for liberty in South America, Sicily, and at Rome, without money and without price. Shall I now accept of a reward for having done only my duty to my own country? My soul would be humiliated by doing so. Thank the King for his kind offer, but I cannot take a pension from any living man.'"

THE AMERICANS AND THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—Mr. Morrill has stated in Congress that it is a very moderate estimate that 75,000 persons will leave the United States and cross the Atlantic this summer. He calculates that the expenditure will not average less than 1,500 *dols.* each, or a total of 112,500,000 *dols.*, which in currency would be over 150,000,000 *dols.* Paid in specie it would swallow up the entire production of all the United States' gold and silver mines of the year; but he entertains the expectation that the payment will be in United States' bonds, disposed of as the exigencies of individuals may require. He allows that the number of travellers may be greater, and quotes the popular joke of a pretended cable despatch, announcing that the Emperor of the French has set apart four acres as a grave-yard for American visitors who may not survive. He regards the drain of money as ill-timed, but there is no escape from it, and America may hereafter avenge herself by calling a world's convention upon the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

THE THREATENED IMPROVEMENT OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON.—The statement which has caused so much sensation in Europe, and of the effects of which on American funds and on European opinion we now hear every day through the cable, is entirely incorrect. Congress has not "ordered the impeachment of the President," or done anything like it. The House has ordered the judiciary committee to inquire whether there are any grounds for ordering an impeachment, but have fixed no time for it to bring in its report, and it is tolerably certain that up to this day the committee has done little or nothing in the matter, and has not even taken a particle of evidence. Everybody who knows anything of parliamentary proceedings in this country knows that a reference to a committee may mean everything or nothing, and that it is just as frequently resorted to for the purpose of putting a question on the shelf for an indefinite period as of preparing it for legislation. Even after the committee has brought in its report the House is bound to nothing, and may act on it or not, as it pleases. The committee, however, of course, represents the majority of the House, and generally makes its action suit its constituents. Things which the dominant party does not wish to have passed are not passed, and things which it wishes to bring forward are duly prepared for instant action. I think the dominant party in Congress just now do not want to touch the impeachment question, and I am satisfied that you will therefore see no report from the judiciary committee much before the 4th of March—if then.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

WORKING OF PROTECTION IN AMERICA.—The opinion prevails, to a greater or less extent, in all classes of the community, either that free-trade is an English device for the spoliation of the rest of mankind, or else that, although it may be a good thing for an old country like England, which has built up its manufactures by centuries of protection, it will not do for a new country like this. Against these theories none of the usual weapons of the free-trade armoury will prevail. The remedy is to be found in practical experience of high protective duties. This the country has never had before, but it is having it now with a vengeance. The tariff had never before 1860 got above 40 per cent., and this only lasted four years. There then came a reaction which kept the duties down till 1860. The necessities of the war and the attitude of the Democratic party, and the course of the English press in supporting the Secessionists on free-trade grounds, gave the protectionist policy a fresh stimulus, which has carried the tariff higher and higher every year since, and the effects on the industry of the country at last begin to be visible. The ship-building trade is totally ruined; there are not half-a-dozen ships, I believe, all told, on the stocks in the whole United States, owing to the high price of all ship-building materials, and the American flag has almost completely disappeared from the sea, partly, no doubt, owing to the Alabama ravages, but mainly owing to the impossibility of constructing or repairing vessels cheaply enough to compete with foreigners in the carrying trade. The enormous duties of the last four years seem to have done little even for those for whose special benefit they were enacted. The iron-manufacturers, the woollen-manufacturers, the machinists, the wool-growers, are all clamouring as fiercely for

more protection, and prophesying their approaching ruin as loudly as if they enjoyed no protection at all. A very large body of the consumers is still persuaded that the cause of the general *malaise* which pervades the manufacturing world is foreign competition, and there is still little use in trying to set them right by argument.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

THE REFORM LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION.

The Reform Demonstration on Monday (says the *Daily News*, whose account we mainly follow) passed without an opportunity being given to its enemies to hold the leaders of the movement "personally responsible" for any breaches of the peace or destruction of property. Not only was there no infringement of the law, but, so far as we saw, not even an ordinary street row. The people met and parted with a quietness that would strike some as significant. It is estimated that there were some 20,000 in the procession, considerably less than in the trades demonstration. On the other hand, throughout the afternoon the thoroughfares out of the track of the procession were swarming with men who wore badges, showing that they were adherents of the Reform League, but who for some reason or other declined to march in military order. Trafalgar-square was the place of rendezvous of the procession. The porchway of the National Gallery, the steps of St. Martin's Church, and every other accessible point, was covered by well-to-do men and women, who were anxious to witness the proceedings without feeling the crowd. Towards two o'clock the square and its approaches were densely packed. The following description is given of the procession:—

It was headed by a band, and by a troop of farriers, who gained well-deserved renown by the successful manner in which they performed the duty of pioneers. Then branches of the League, interspersed with trade societies, followed with their bands and flags. The trades had taken part in the proceedings simply as members of the League, the understanding being that if the intentions of the present Government are not strictly honourable, the entire trades unions will hold a demonstration of their own at Easter that shall eclipse all its predecessors. Still there were several trades represented on Monday, including the tailors and others, who, it was stated, had refused to attend. The trade emblems were few, while the banners were more numerous and more handsome than we have seen them before. The banners and flags, as is their wont, proclaimed the principles of which the processionists are proud—the principles of unity, liberty, peace, law, order, charity, and independence, expressed by text, by proverb, or motto. The bands, as far as the popular music of the country gives opportunity, reflected the inscriptions, but it must be confessed that opportunity was of the scantiest description. The melody relating to the disposition of John Brown's body, the French republican hymn, and the kindred Garibaldian song, were played as often as decorous, but the majority of the tunes were of the "Champagne Charley" class, that being the air played most triumphantly within earshot of the Temperance division which brought up the rear. On the whole, the procession, in its display of flags, was an improvement on all its predecessors.

Along the entire route the spectators were apparently three times as numerous as when the trades unionists trudged through the mud to Beaufort-grounds. At no time, at least until Pentonville-roads was reached, were the crowds inconvenient, but at all times the interest shown in the procession was the most striking feature of the demonstration.

In Pall-mall and St. James's-street the shop-windows were but partially closed. The pavements and a portion of the roads were comfortably occupied with persons, and the windows and balconies the same. A request, so strong as to be almost an order, had been circulated through the ranks by the council, to pass the clubs in significant silence, and to cheer only at the American embassy. As a rule this desire was strictly complied with, the only departure being a slight cheer given at the Reform Club. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh occupied one of the upper windows of the United Service Club, and they laughed heartily at the playful gambols of some of the troopers of the farriers who were accidentally halted at the end of Waterloo-place. At the Athenæum opposite, the Archbishop of York, one or two other prelates, and Mr. Charles Dickens, were upon the balconies. The political clubs appeared to be given over as a rule to ladies and to those members who are often irreverently described as "club fogies." The only prominent Liberals at the Reform Club were Mr. W. E. Forster and Mr. T. B. Potter. In St. James's-street stray members of the House of Commons and several peers were at the windows of various houses with parties of ladies, the Duke of Sutherland, Lord Halifax, Earl Spencer, and Lord R. Grosvenor amongst them. Lord Ranelagh, on horseback at the skirts of the crowd, was applauded by several sections. Slight delays occurred at the corners of the street, but as there were invariably strong reinforcements of police posted in the proper positions, there was nothing worse than delay. The fashionable shopkeepers in Regent-street, partaking perhaps of the alarms expressed on Friday in the House of Lords, had closed their shops and barred their windows, although as the people did not stand or pass within a yard of them, there was no necessity for such a sacrifice of trade at the commencement of the season. The appearance of the banners and marchers along the whole length of Regent-street was very imposing. The procession made the best of its way along the clear ground in the Euston-road, having previously adopted the suggestion of the council to cheer the American Minister in Portland-place. From King's-cross to the end of the journey the spectators were in full sympathy with the reformers, cheering them, and greeting them with waving handkerchiefs and flags. Outside the Agricultural Hall a competent force of mounted police kept guard—much, no doubt, to the disappointment of the evil-disposed lurking near. The procession arrived at about a quarter to six, and entered the building in order. Masses of the Islington population could be seen as far as the eye stretched in either direction. Colonel

Dickson was the marshal, and Messrs. Langley and Bradlaugh deputy-m Marshals, of the entire procession, and each division had its sub-marshal. These gentlemen were on horseback.

The immense area of the Agricultural Hall was crammed with people, 20,000 at least, and it was said that nearly 100,000 were unable to obtain admission. The seats were arranged along the whole length and ends of the immense area, upon the floor, and in the galleries. The platform was not at the organ end, as is customary, but in the centre of the building, within the Barford-street entrance. Several of the seats were priced, and twice there was a pressing upon them from behind, until disturbances were imminent. The tumults were, however, calmed by a little coaxing on the part of the executive. Mr. Beales was in the chair, and was supported by the O'Donoghue, M.P., Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., Mr. T. B. Potter, M.P., Professor Rogers, Professor Beasley, Colonel Dickson, and Mr. Ernest Jones. The chairman read a letter from Mr. Stuart Mill, who was unable to attend, in which he said:—

The reform movement has thus far been conducted with great energy and judgment, and I have no doubt that the demonstration on Monday will be a signal and most valuable success. I feel it, however, better on several accounts that I should not personally take part in it. In the first place, the same evening has, it seems, been chosen by the Government for the announcement of the plan in regard to reform, and this is likely to lead to more or less of debate, from which I ought not to be absent. But, independently of this, I do not feel myself capable of doing work at great public meetings and in the House too. One of the two is as much as my time or my strength is adequate to; and, having no special aptitude, as several of our friends have, for addressing public meetings, I think it best that my taking part in them should be confined to exceptional cases. Your former great meeting at the Agricultural Hall was an exceptional case, and you know what special reasons there were for the course I took on that occasion. If at the present time there was the smallest possibility of any attempt to interfere with your demonstration, I would come to you at once, and take my share of whatever befel. But there is happily no ground for any such apprehension.

The first resolution, which was moved by Professor Rogers, was—

That this meeting consider it their duty to distinctly declare that no measure for the improvement of the representation of the people in Parliament will be satisfactory which is not based upon the principle of the people themselves being directly and personally so represented, instead of such representation being only virtual and sectional, and that such direct and real representation can only be effected by means of residential and registered manhood suffrage, protected in its free and honest exercise by the ballot.

The O'Donoghue, in seconding this, said he had just left the House of Commons, and he could tell that meeting, as a matter of fact, that the Government had not introduced a Reform Bill. He could also tell them that the impression left upon his mind by the speech of Mr. Disraeli was that the Tory party intended, if they could, to smuggle a Reform Bill through the House of Commons without consulting the people. He assured them that the millions of the Irish people were with the English people in their desire for Reform, and the Irish people would go forward with their English brethren in this cause until the people of these kingdoms were in possession of their political rights. He considered the representative system of Belgium, Switzerland, Holland, Italy, and the United States of America as the system which gave the people a voice in the Government; while the English system was a contrivance to keep the power in the hands of the few. When, he concluded, the cause of Reform was triumphant, there would be an end to landlord oppression, and the friendship of the English and Irish peoples would be invincible in its strength, and eternal in its duration.

Mr. Potter, M.P., gave, amid the continued hootings of the audience, who cried, "Down with the Tories!" a sketch of the Government proposals on the Reform question, and said the House had been obliged to listen to a gentleman for two hours and a quarter speaking upon a subject which he had no desire to see carried out.

Mr. Taylor, M.P., said he had just come from the Theatre of St. Stephen's, where her Majesty's servants had been performing the time-honoured farce of "How not to do it." This was a play which had run through many sessions, and was not at first without amusement. The principal amusement was the wonderful gravity of the gentlemen who said one thing while they meant another; but it had become tedious by repetition, and the last effort they had witnessed was that evening, when the "Great Mystery Man" had attempted the rôle, and spoke for more than two hours with such effect that if they knew anything about Reform before he commenced, they were not likely to know much when he had ended.

The resolution was agreed to with only one dissentient.

Mr. Ernest Jones on coming forward received quite an ovation. He moved the second resolution:—

That this meeting desires most earnestly to press upon the Liberal members of the House of Commons the absolute necessity, as they regard the peace and welfare of the country, of not consenting to any measure of reform designed to evade the full and just rights of the people to be directly represented in their own branch of the Legislature.

He said that as the people of England had long since seen the futility of trying the Tories, they now proposed to pass sentence upon them, and that sentence must be perpetual banishment from the councils of the nation. (Great cheering.)

Professor Beasley seconded the resolution, which, after being supported by Mr. Bradlaugh, was carried.

The Rev. ARTHUR O'NEIL, who said he had been

a reformer for thirty years, proposed the third resolution :—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the statements made in the House of Commons this evening, on the subject of Reform in the representation of the people in Parliament, are eminently satisfactory, and complete the proof of the present Government being unworthy of the confidence of the country. (Cheers.)

Mr. Councillor BIRD, of the Glasgow Reform League, seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Rev. Mr. PORTER, of the Manchester Reform League, and like the others carried by acclamation.

Thanks were then voted to the chairman, and after several rounds of cheers had been given for Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, and other popular reformers, the assembly dispersed shortly before eleven o'clock.

CURRENCY REFORM.

[We are requested to insert the following paper, and have great pleasure in commending it to the attention of our readers.]

Against the actual exhaustion of its treasure by a drain through the foreign exchanges, the Bank has the power of protecting herself; but to do this she must produce upon the Money Market a pressure ruinous for its suddenness and severity; she must save herself by the destruction of all around her.—*Lord Overstone.*

Our monetary laws put it in the power of a few shrewd capitalists to contract the supply of gold as to enrich themselves, embarrass the Bank, and nearly ruin the nation.—*Lord Ashburton.*

The late monetary panic, like its predecessors in 1847 and 1857, from the wide-spread ruin and misery it has occasioned, cannot fail to have drawn most anxious attention to the currency laws of this country and the Bank Act of 1844 in particular. Although it may not be possible for an enterprising people to avoid the occurrence of fluctuating monetary demand, and consequent occasional monetary excitement, it seems perfectly clear that this tendency is enormously intensified by the provisions and operations of the Bank Charter Act of 1844.

In an abstract of "The Lords' Report, 1848," upon the Act of 1844, the following startling statements present themselves :—

"The act produced the panic of 1847."

"The suspension of the act prevented the stoppage of the Bank of England."

"The Act of 1844 purported to check speculation, the result was to foment speculation."

"As long as the act remains, so long will panics be liable to recur."

In the face of such statements, from such a quarter, confirmed as they have been by subsequent events, and in addition to the experience of the overwhelming majority of traders, it behoves every member of the community to inquire, persistently, into the operative character of our money laws; and to resolutely move either for their repeal, or for the total abolition of their baneful clauses.

The fluctuations in the Bank rates of discount, for the Bank's own protection and profit during last year (regardless of the interests of the community, whose property has thereby been grievously, nay ruinously, reduced in value) are evils no longer entitled to Parliamentary toleration, and demand immediate correction.

In order to provide a nucleus and establish an organisation for the deliberate consideration of this momentous national question, we request your co-operation for the following reasons :—

1st. The Bank Act of 1844 has proved most mischievous, by increasing or contracting the amount of notes issued by the Bank in accordance with the influx and efflux of gold. In this way, the act has rendered money at times cheap, at other times dear, by interfering with the law of supply and demand of loanable capital in the discount market; contrary to the first principles of political economy.

2nd. Both time and experience have equally proved this essential principle of the act not to have worked well either in prosperity or adversity; nor "ensured the just reward of industry, and legitimate profit of commercial enterprise." Further, instead of "preventing monetary panics and confusion," it has proved itself a most powerful promoter of both, by causing contraction of the currency, and therefore enhancing its value, at the very time when judicious extension was most required.

3rd. The principle of the Act of 1844 operates in a mode the reverse of what common sense would suggest. When the nation enjoys prosperity, when in the absence of alarm capital circulates freely, the Bank of England is obliged to purchase all the gold offered, at a fixed price, whatever its real value; and thus, by a compulsory increase of notes, increases the abundance of currency, thereby encouraging speculation. When a bad harvest raises the prices of provisions, and gold goes out of the country to pay for a supply of corn, when calamity comes, when alarm causes hoarding of the currency of every kind, when, in short, this country requires assistance and encouragement, then the Bank is not only obliged to part with her gold in payment of her notes, at a fixed price, viz., 3l. 17s. 10½d. per oz., whatever be the real value or market price, but is obliged to contract the currency to the amount of the gold which it has sold; and this compulsory contraction of the circulation lowers the prices of commodities and securities, creates alarm, increases calamity, produces panic, and ends in a suspension of the law.

4th. For 140 years prior to the Act of 1844 the rates of discount at the Bank of England do not appear to have ranged below four, nor above five-and-a-half per cent.; whereas, in 1847, the Bank's minimum was raised to eight per cent.—a panic was thereby created, which caused this act to be sus-

pended by an Order in Council. In 1857 the minimum was raised to ten per cent.—another panic was created, and this act was again suspended, by an Order in Council. And last year (1866) the minimum rate of discount was again raised to ten per cent.—a third panic was created, and, for the third time within twenty years, this act was suspended from the 12th May to the 16th August, a period of ninety-six days of unprecedented financial confusion, disaster, and ruin.

5th. The grave error of the Act of 1844 was made manifest by its suspension in 1847. To continue it after such a failure was at least unwise; it was still more unwise not to profit by the costly experience of 1857. It will be difficult to exaggerate the folly of disregarding the evidence furnished by the events of 1866.

6th. The world-wide commercial relations of this country require our currency to be based upon the national capital and credit; that it shall never be so increased as to generate speculative excitement on the one hand, nor its amount or value be so dependent on the foreign exchanges as to cause undue contraction and consequent panic on the other.

7th. It is the primary duty of Government, with the authority of Parliament, to provide a currency essentially the representative of the legal measure of value, by its being made legal tender, and therefore receivable for taxes. It is easy to see the advantage which would be inherent in an adequate amount of national currency notes, based on the property and credit of the nation, instead of the present 15,000,000l. of notes issued by the Bank of England based only upon the Government debt, to meet which notes, although payable on demand in gold, the Bank has no gold!

8th. Convertibility of the note into gold is not the end desired to be attained, but only a means. The desired end being, to prevent the note becoming either artificially depreciated or increased in value. Several nations of Europe have their "State notes," which are not convertible into gold, and yet they are not depreciated.

SAMUEL MORLEY, 18, Wood-street.

JOHN TWELLS, M.A., Rector of Gamston, Hon. Prebendary of Lincoln.

JNO. P. FOSTER, 47, Wood-street.

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JOHN BELL, Hole-park, Kent.

CHARLES GILPIN, M.P.

JAMES R. JEFFERY.

RIGBY WASON.

ROBERT SLATER, 104, Fore-street.

JOHN SCOTT (Kerr, Scott, and Co.)

G. THIRKILL (of Vyse, Sons, and Co.)

CHAS. W. O. HUTTON (Hutton and Co.)

HENRY TUCKER (Baker, Tucker, and Co.)

PH. TWELLS.

EVERITT, FLETCHER, and LUCAS.

J. A. NICHOLAY.

18, Wood-street, London, E.C.,
January, 1867.

THE LATE DAVID DERRY, OF PLYMOUTH.

This esteemed citizen of Plymouth has lately departed this life after nearly fifty years of public service, and was buried on Tuesday, Jan. 29. There was a large concourse of persons at the grave to show respect to the memory of this highly-esteemed gentleman. On the following Sunday the Rev. Charles Wilson, M.A., preached the funeral sermon at Sherwell Chapel. The text was taken from the 21st verse of the 1st chapter of the Philippians—"To die is gain." The following is an extract from Mr. Wilson's discourse relative to the qualities and career of the deceased :—

David Derry was a noble type of the Christian citizen. He acknowledged the duties which he owed to his fellow-men, and strove to discharge them faithfully. He did not live unto himself. His views of Christian duty were too broad and sound to exclude him from the councils of his fellow townsmen, or to justify his evading any civil responsibility for which his abilities qualified him, and to which he might be called by the confidence of others. He did not believe that a righteous regard for the next world means a contempt for the necessary duties of this. His piety was not of that delicate order that is crushed by conflict or withered by controversy. His faith had a firm grasp of God, his experience of Divine truth was deep and broad, and his religious life had in it a vigour which enabled him to bear his part in the world's conflict unharmed. His whole career was a protest against the spirit that would divorce religious life from civil duties and political claims. The godly man ought to be the truest citizen and the sincerest patriot. Whatever it is right to do should be done religiously. All duties that affect the welfare of his fellow-men and the honour of his country ought to be earnestly discharged by him as a service unto his God. Our departed friend's life-work—the work which is a testimony to his sound judgment, his wise caution, his administrative ability, and his high character—is the Devon and Cornwall Bank. You know how it grew under his management, and extended the area of its operations through this and into the adjacent county. His position in connection with it was one that made him the adviser of many, and he was uniformly a judicious friend. In the light of recent events, in which we have seen so many betrayed by the pressure of difficulty, it is matter for sincere congratulation that his course has been one of such unswerving integrity. He himself felt this deeply. Often since his retirement from public life has he expressed to me his devout thankfulness to God that he has been enabled to guard so sacredly the interests which had been entrusted to him. But this represents only one side of his life. He was avowedly a Christian man. There was no concealment of his religious convictions. There was no equivocation or hesitancy about his profession of Christ. He was not ashamed of his Saviour. The service of his

Redeemer received a large share of his effort and sympathy. The qualities of mind and heart which won the confidence of his fellow-townsmen gave him prominence in religious movements. Throughout the memorable century, memorable especially for the upgrowth and development of nearly all our great religious societies, he has been a consistent advocate of all that has seemed fitted to promote the moral and spiritual progress of the human race. He became a Sunday-school teacher when Sunday-schools were regarded as a species of religious Quixotism; and when the great missionary enterprise was food for the satirist and was frowned upon by a large section of the Christian Church, he embraced it heartily and pledged himself to its promotion. Fifty years ago it cost a young man far more, and was a far severer test of principle, openly to identify himself with movements of this kind than in the present day. Now they have outlived ridicule and vanquished opposition. They have won triumphs and obtained an influence which has secured for them the admiration of the world. Our departed friend lived to see all this, and his last days have found him true and faithful. The Western College has lost in him a tried and faithful friend, and the Town Mission a generous supporter. Indeed, there is scarcely a charitable institution in our town which he has not helped to sustain. He was, indeed, a man with broad sympathies and a generous heart. But why do I refer to all this? Not to eulogise the dead, but as an example and stimulus to the living. What our friend did, he did unto the Lord. Any movement that was needed to meet a moral and social want, to promote the welfare of others and the honour of his Redeemer, was sure of his generous aid. These acts of service may seem small at the time; it may, for instance, seem a small thing once a year on a platform or in the report to be identified with this society or that; but when year is linked with year, service with service, and gift with gift, and these appear like golden threads of Christian effort, running in unbroken sequence through the web of a long life, they represent an influence for good which cannot be measured, and disclose secrets of the soul which command our warmest respect. In this church David Derry will ever be remembered with reverence. His name has stood on the roll of its membership for nearly fifty years, and for nearly forty years of that time he has held an official position in it. This, in itself, is no small testimony to his character and worth. He has used the office of a deacon well, and purchased to himself "a good degree." A sure and steadfast friend, never shrinking from responsibility, but ever ready to bear a generous part in what was needed to be done, amidst many changes, he remained unchanged. . . . His ecclesiastical sympathies were with Congregationalism, but he was utterly free from any approach to religious bigotry or sectarian narrowness. While holding his own views firmly, he had a large charity towards those who differed from him. He knew nothing of the miserable littleness which can only respect the reflection of its own thoughts, or that finds it necessary to doubt the sincerity of others in order to maintain its own. He had a very true regard for all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and in truth, and it always seemed to be a pleasure to him to refer to the Christian excellences of those who in essential matters were opposed to him.

THE JAMAICA PROSECUTIONS.

At the Bow-street Police-court, on Wednesday, application was made to the chief magistrate, Sir Thomas Henry, by Mr. Fitzjames Stephen, for warrants for the apprehension of General Nelson and Lieutenant Brand, on the charge of the wilful murder of Mr. Gordon, at Morant Bay, in the county of Surrey in the island of Jamaica, in October, 1865.

Mr. Stephen, with whom was Mr. J. Horns Payne, was instructed by Messrs. Shaen and Roscoe. He stated that the actual prosecutors were Mr. John Stuart Mill, the member of Parliament for Westminster, and Mr. P. A. Taylor, the member for Leicester, both now present. The name of Governor Eyre was not at present included because that gentleman was not at the present moment within the jurisdiction of this court. There was no doubt, however, that he would be ready and willing to meet the charge, and they had an intimation from his solicitor that he would attend upon due notice. He was desirous of doing perfect justice to all parties, and must, therefore, state that Mr. Eyre had shown the most honourable and courageous determination to meet most fully and fairly every responsibility properly devolving upon him. He (Mr. Stephen) was sorry that the great questions at issue could not be decided upon a less grave charge than that of murder, the parties who instituted the prosecution being actuated solely by motives of public justice, and not by any petty party or personal ill-feeling. But he should contend that the act, if, as he alleged, illegal, was an act of murder and not of manslaughter. The deliberate putting of a man to death illegally was murder, and was not excused either by the good faith or ignorance of the parties or by the argument that they acted under orders of superiors. Mr. Stephen went into an elaborate statement of the motives of the prosecutors, the facts, and the law of the case, contending that the question at issue was whether the law of England was supreme, or whether the sovereign had power in time of rebellion to suspend all law and set up a military despotism, with absolute power over the lives of the subjects of the realm. After further remarks the case was adjourned.

On Thursday Mr. Fitzjames Stephen renewed his application for warrants against General Nelson and Lieutenant Brand. Witnesses were examined who deposed to having seen both defendants in London, and therefore in the jurisdiction of the court, during the last few days. Sir Thomas Henry expressed himself satisfied on this point, and ordered that the warrants should be issued. Mr. Stephen took occasion to remark that the prosecutors were anxious to offer no indignity to the gentlemen whose conduct was the subject of investigation; and that

both in the mode of their apprehension and in the matter of bail, he hoped no severity would be enforced which the law had power to relax. Sir Thomas Henry, in acquiescing in this suggestion, paid a high compliment to the ability and fairness which Mr. Stephen had exhibited in his conduct of the prosecution.

Lieutenant Brand, having been arrested, was brought up at Bow-street on Friday, and formally charged with the murder of Mr. Gordon. No fresh evidence was taken, and Lieutenant Brand was remanded until Tuesday. He declared he had no friends, and seemed quite careless as to bail, which the magistrate offered to take. Later in the day, however, Mr. Rowell, a barrister, and Mr. Stillwell, a navy agent, presented themselves, and were accepted as sureties for Mr. Brand's appearance. It is understood that General Nelson and Mr. Eyre will surrender whenever they are required in court.

General Nelson surrendered himself at Bow-street on Saturday. The proceedings were purely formal, and the defendant was remanded, bail being accepted to the same amount as in the case of Lieutenant Brand.

Yesterday, at twelve o'clock, Bow-street was crowded by a great number of people to hear the adjourned case. In addition to the counsel for the prosecution, Mr. Bristowe appeared on behalf of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for Lieutenant Brand; and Mr. Claude Scott, solicitor for the War Department, for General Nelson. The defendants declined the privilege of occupying the floor of the court, and remained in the dock.

After some preliminaries, Mr. Fitzjames Stephen stated the case for the prosecution. He based his argument chiefly on the following points:—

First, that except so far as it was modified by special and local acts, the law of England was the law of Jamaica. That the Jamaica acts were to be construed by the common law of England. He should at a proper stage call Mr. Philippo, a distinguished English barrister, versed in the law of Jamaica, to produce a variety of documents, acts, and precedents to prove that proposition. If it should be made apparent (as he did not think it would) that the intention of the Jamaica acts was to establish a state of things unknown and repugnant to the law of England, that intention was inoperative because it was *ultra vires*. Martial law was not defined in the Jamaica acts. They seemed rather to treat it as something the existence of which they assumed. He contended, however, that martial law would only be legal in Jamaica in whatever sense it was that it was legal in England. That is that it was a notice to all whom it might concern of a certain state of facts which in the opinion of the authorities rendered it necessary to resort at once to the most extreme measures, and the use of military force, for the suppression of that state of things. If it were considered that martial law was a settling up of a system or code of law different from the ordinary law that was a power which did not belong even to the Sovereign personally. But he contended that the whole proceedings were tainted with the vice of the original proclamation, which was of itself illegal. The proclamation was in effect a declaration of war against the inhabitants of the county of Surrey, except in the town of Kingston. Now, he contended that the Sovereign had not power to declare war against her own subjects, and that even traitors could not be held as the Queen's enemies. "Enemies" in law could only be those who were out of allegiance to the Sovereign. It was held that when the King had conquered a country he had the legal right to put all the inhabitants to death—to exterminate them. So if this could be done the officer in command would have absolute power of life and death over her Majesty's subjects in that locality. The distinction he made as to the legality of martial law was that it was legal for the purpose of suppression, not for the purposes of punishment, except so far as that punishment was necessary for suppression. If even the proclamation were effective, it could not justify the punishment of Gordon for what he was alleged to have done before the date of the proclamation. There could be only two modes of defence to this charge. One was that the proceedings were legal, and the second was that legal or not it was necessary for the preservation of the peace. He contended that as to the legality there was at least a very grave question, which he was sure the learned magistrate would not deal with. As for necessity, he might rest content with saying that when a person was put to death the onus of showing that the act was necessary or justified rested with the person putting him to death. But it was one of the singular features of this case that they had the motives of the chief actors stated fully, frankly, and he believed fairly, by themselves. Here Mr. Stephen remarked that he was only discussing the question as a legal one, and did not intend to impute that there was any personal malice towards Gordon on the part of either of these gentlemen. He compared the case with that of Governor Wall, in which Chief Baron Macdonald charged the jury that if they considered that the evidence showed a malicious—which simply meant illegal—intention to kill, or a disregard of life, then it was murder. Now, in the case where a man was sentenced to be hanged by the neck till dead, and that was done, there could be no doubt of the intention to cause death. Mr. Stephen then proceeded to consider the circumstances of the trial, to show that there was no necessity for the execution of Gordon, and that the parties themselves did not think there was, or put it on the ground of necessity. Indeed, Colonel Nelson had stated in his memorandum, approving the sentence, that he did not order the execution of Gordon on Sunday because the state of the country did not render it necessary. And if not necessary at that time, nothing had occurred on the Sunday to render it necessary on the following day. The fact was that these gentlemen acted, not from any belief that the execution of Gordon was an act of military necessity, but they had power to punish him for the use of certain language by which they considered that he had instigated the rebellion—in short, because he was an agitator. The distinction he made as to the legality of martial law was, that it was legal for the purpose of suppression, not for the purpose of punishment, except so far as that punishment was necessary for suppression. If even the

proclamation was effective it could not justify the punishment of Gordon for what he was alleged to have done before the day of proclamation.

After various formalities the prisoners were remanded.

FENIAN RAID ON CHESTER.

In the city of Chester, during the whole of Monday, a vast number of men, principally young men from eighteen to twenty-five years of age, poured into the city, coming from Liverpool, Manchester, and other towns, and as they refused to state their object a great deal of alarm was occasioned to the inhabitants. The general opinion was that the invaders were Fenians, and that they meditated an attack upon Chester Castle. A number of troops arrived in the city from Manchester during the afternoon. At five o'clock yesterday (says one of the Manchester papers) the chief constable had positive information that more than 1,300 suspected persons had arrived in Chester during the day by train, and large numbers entered the city from an early hour in the morning to the close of the day by the various turnpike roads leading out of Chester. At the hour mentioned the volunteers (who had been assembled) were dismissed for a short time, but at six o'clock there was a large arrival of about 400 "strangers" from Birkenhead, Crewe, Stalybridge, Warrington, and Manchester, and the volunteers were at once re-assembled on duty. Shortly after seven o'clock a town's meeting was held under the presidency of the mayor, and the proceedings were very earnest and unanimous. The town clerk stated that in consequence of information received from the authorities in Liverpool, there were grounds for believing that an attack was about to be made upon Chester Castle by certain disaffected persons, for the purpose of obtaining possession of the arms and ammunition there stored. The authorities of the city, having satisfied themselves that there were more than 1,200 strangers in and around the city, had thought it right to obtain, in addition to the military force at command, the assistance of the citizens. This announcement was received with loud cheering, and a large number of townspeople at once enrolled themselves as special constables. They are sworn in for a period of one calendar month. The magistrates who were in consultation during the day remained during the night for the purpose of enrolling special constables, and of acting in case of an emergency arising. The "strangers" were moving about the city on Monday night in groups of about a dozen, and knots of them were assembled at the corners of the streets apparently discussing the events of the day. Larger numbers were parading the roads outside the city, and they appeared to be well organised in their movements. Any attempt of a citizen to join one of the groups as a listener was immediately prevented, and the group at once dispersed to re-assemble at another point. The *Manchester Guardian* is informed that the Chief Constable of Chester has in his possession a list of ex-Federal officers, with the rank they held in the Federal army, who are now in Chester, and who are believed to be in command of the present movement. The same paper has heard that arrangements had been made by the "brotherhood" to remove the rails at several points on the Birkenhead line upon the receipt of information that such a course would be desirable.

THE WORKING CLASSES.

The Rev. G. W. McCree, in a letter to the *Star*, gives the following as the result of a wide personal acquaintance with the working classes of England:—

Let me say, then, that I am familiar with the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Yorkshire. Religious duties compelled me to walk hundreds of miles in these counties. I ate, drank, slept, and studied in the houses of ploughmen, miners, fishermen, sailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, coke-burners, shepherds, wheelwrights, &c., and became familiar with their daily lives. I solemnly declare that I found them in every way worthy of the franchise. Hundreds of them were Sunday-school teachers, and more moral and intellectual than many a rich farmer or fox-hunting squire. I met with numbers of voteless coal and lead miners, for example, who were daily students of the Scriptures, Josephus, Rollin's "Ancient History," Wesley's "Sermons," Chambers' "Information for the People," Milton's "Paradise Lost," and similar books. They knew every leading politician's name, history, character, sentiments, and proclivities; and there was no great debate which they did not gravely read and discuss. Their love for England was as pure and fervent as Mr. Robert Lowe's. Yet these men were voteless!

In Newcastle, Carlisle, Sunderland, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, and Norwich, I have met with unfranchised men of high character, noble patriotism, intense love of reading, beautiful domestic habits, and fine religious spirit. One was a brickmaker, who gloried in seeking to make his fellow-workmen good Christians. Another was a pitman, who delighted to study history, theology, chemistry, and mathematics. A third was a coke-burner, who used to recreate himself after labour by a good wash, a quiet pipe, and the perusal of Professor Mansel's works. A fourth was a brave fisherman, who helped to build a chapel, to establish a Sunday-school, and to man the lifeboat. Yet these splendid Englishmen had no votes. And they are the types of thousands more of their valuable class, who have been, and are, treated as strangers and foreigners.

I have lived in London for eighteen years, and have studied the working classes with profound and conscientious care. Few men have seen them more closely, and I must affirm that as a class—taking them as a whole—they are fit for the vote which they claim. What industry, domestic love, patience in afflictions, heroism in danger, sorrow for their errors, aspirations after a higher life, and sublime faith in the Supreme Father, have I

seen in them! How proud they were of Wellington! How they mourned the death of Albert the Good! How they whispered the name of Richard Cobden when he was buried! How they love the Queen! How willingly would they die for England! And yet they have no place in the commonwealth. Let me describe one of them, and Mr. George Potter will, if desired, produce more like him. He is a married man, has been thirty years in the same shop, writes good essays, poetry, and tales for a periodical; is an able lecturer, sings a good song, reads books of history, science, poetry, fiction, and philosophy; honours his God, and lives the life of a Christian. But he has no vote—probably never will have—because he is a lodger. If he only kept a filthy beer-shop, filled with thieves, prize-fighters, and worse, he would be "an honourable elector," and then Tory candidates would seek the "honour" of his support.

One word more. I think I know the present temper of working men. It is very grave, earnest, determined. They are roused at last. They will be peaceful, not turbulent. They will break no windows, kindle no fires, crack no skulls. They are as averse to riot as any bishop, or peer, or countess; but they will have the franchise, and the sooner it is granted, the better for the future of England.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen and the Royal family are expected to return to Windsor Castle on or about the 21st inst.

The *Court Circular* says it is the intention of her Majesty to take a cruise during the coming summer in the Victoria and Albert, which will be ready for service by the 20th of May. The Prince and Princess of Wales also intend to take an extensive yachting cruise during the coming summer season. The same paper says that besides the intention of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to spend a portion of each year in Ireland, it is her Majesty's intention to visit the lakes of Killarney during the present year.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by General Knollys, lunched at the United Service Club, Pall-mall, on Monday afternoon. From the windows of the club the Prince witnessed the Reform League procession as it passed along Pall-mall.

The Duke of Edinburgh is expected to sail for Lisbon in the *Galatea* this week.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn has been suffering from an attack of bronchitis. Though much better, he is still labouring under its effects.

Mr. Frank Buckland has been appointed an inspector of salmon fisheries, in the room of Mr. Eden, who has retired from that appointment.

It is stated that Sir Henry Storks is about to resign the governorship of Malta, and return to this country in about two months.

It is stated that the Irish members of the Liberal party held a meeting on Thursday to confer upon the course which they should take during present circumstances. The attendance was not large, but it was understood that many who had intended to take part in the proceedings had not arrived in town. Among those present were some gentlemen who held office under the late Government. After considering the intention of the Government to allow the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act to expire, and the promise of a good land bill, the Irish members resolved, it is said, that they would not determine upon any course of action in the House until they should hear the whole Ministerial programme respecting Ireland. With regard to future action, a committee of seven was authorised to call assemblages of the Irish members for the consideration of all questions affecting the political, social, or material interests of their country.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Havelock, V.C., C.B., has been appointed Assistant-Quartermaster-General in Canada, in succession to Colonel Wolesey, whose period of service has just expired.

We have not heard the last of the Yelverton case yet, it seems. Another appeal to the House of Lords has been entered by Mrs. Yelverton, and will come on for hearing during the present session. Being quite out of funds, the lady sues this time *in forma pauperis*.

Her Majesty has signified her intention to confer the honour of knighthood on Mr. George Harvey, President of the Royal Scottish Academy, and on Mr. J. Noel Paton, R.S.A.

Professor Maurice commenced his first course of lectures at Cambridge on Wednesday, taking "casuistry" for his subject.

THE YACHT HENRIETTA.—CONDENSED CORRESPONDENCE.—It was necessary, we suppose, to telegraph the whole of the letters, in order to add to the *déjà* of Mr. Bennett. Otherwise, we might have suggested a condensation, which would have been much cheaper at the present cable rates. For instance:—"Mr. Bennett to Prince Alfred. Off Cowes, Dec. 31, 1866. Your Royal Highness,—I'm going to give you my yacht. My regards to your mother and the royal family.—Yours, J. G. BENNETT, Jr." "Prince Alfred to Mr. Bennett. Dear Sir,—I must decline with thanks. This establishment does not advertise in the *New York Herald*.—ALFRED."—*Boston Advertiser*. James and Alfred were two good boys, who had little ships, and James's ship sailed over the pond. Alfred was so glad that he asked James to dinner, and they had gingerbread. So James offered to give Alfred his little ship as a proof that all James's countrymen were so glad Alfred had given him such a nice dinner. But Alfred wouldn't take the little ship because it was too good for him, and so both boys were glad, and hoped their families would never quarrel. For further particulars see cable despatches.—*New York Tribune*.

Literature.

A FIFTH-MONARCHY MAN.*

All who have read Sir Walter's "Peveril of the Peak" and who has not been fascinated by this inimitable picture of the times of the "Merry Monarch"—will recall that strange scene in the fanatic's house in London, which Bridgenorth cautiously showed to Julian. In an inner secret hall, were assembled some two hundred wild and desperate men, with spears and muskets in their hands. In stern attention they were listening to the fiery denunciations of an old grey-headed man, who "menaced the rulers of England with all the judgments denounced on those of Moab and Assyria."

He sounded trumpets, opened vials, broke seals, and denounced approaching judgments, under all the mystical signs of the "Apocalypse." From the pulpit he swung over the heads of his hearers a banner, on which was represented a lion, with the motto, "Vicit Leo ex tribu Judæ." These were Fifth-Monarchy Men. They were plotting the destruction of "the man of Westminster," and the exalting to his place of the "Lion of the tribe of Judah." A few years before, during the Commonwealth, "John Rogers, preacher," whose life and opinions are in this book set forth, was a foremost man among these hot-headed sectaries. This zealot is said to have been descended from John Rogers, the first who suffered for religion in the reign of Mary. From his boyhood, this second notable John Rogers was peculiar, excitable, and morbid, and was manifestly of such stuff as zealots are made of. His conversion was a conflict, or series of protracted conflicts and struggles, such as we never dream of now-a-days. He was one of those violent ones who would take the kingdom of Heaven by force, but who had so sore a battle to fight with Beelzebub outside the gate, that he frequently was tempted to kill himself to escape from his miseries. Fits of melancholy depressed him, and wonderful dreams revived him. When at length he attained to an assurance of faith, he associated with Puritans and Roundheads, finding them to be more congenial spirits than any he met in the house of his father, who was a gentle-spirited and loyal clergyman. For thus disgracing his family John was turned out of home. Worn and pining, he at length found his way to Cambridge; but so famished was he, and so little help did he get, that he was fain to eat the most nauseous things to keep life within him. When at the lowest point of despair a career opened upon him. He became a teacher in a school, and soon afterwards entered the ministry. Spite of all discouragements, he perseveringly kept up his studies whenever he had opportunity, so that he was able, after the fashion of his time, to interlard his discourses and writings with sentences in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. In prison, too, in after years, he solaced his dreadful captivity by resolutely pursuing the study of the Scriptures in the Hebrew, Chaldee, Syriac, and Ethiopic versions. For a time John Rogers casts in his lot with the Presbyterians, but afterwards he renounces his connection with them and becomes an Independent. He heartily espouses the cause of the Parliament, but when the estrangement and animosity between the army and the Parliament shows itself, he declares himself on the side of the army, and is a fervent admirer and upholder of Cromwell. When Cromwell dismissed the Long Parliament, and was yet undetermined as to the future form of the Government, Rogers sent to him his first epistle, in which he earnestly contends for various modifications in the governing body, all of them according to patterns selected from the Scriptures.

When at length Cromwell was proclaimed Protector of the Realm, the glorious visions which had so heated the imaginations of the more ardent of the Independents were rudely dissipated, and their wrath was proportionately intense: their idol had mocked them, the man, the chosen of God, whom they had raised to power that he might smite down the men of Belial, and realise their fond anticipations of a kingdom of heaven upon earth, content with fulfilling half his mission, had now set himself in the throne they had reserved for a King not of earth. The chiefs among these deluded and desperate men were Major-General Harrison, Colonel Rich, and Mr. Carew, among the laity; and Rogers, Feake, and Simpson, among the clergy. Another of them, Vavasor Powell, actually declared open war, and in public assembly said that Cromwell was "the dissemblingest per-

jured villain in the world, that his reign was 'but short, and that he should be served worse than that great tyrant the last Lord Protector was, he being altogether as bad, if not worse than he.' These men held that the dominion and the power of the four great monarchies, mentioned by Daniel—the Assyrian, the Persian, the Grecian, and the Roman—having utterly come to end, it was manifestly the will of God, indicated in prophecy and in Providence, that the rule of the saints should now commence, and the fifth great monarchy, under King Jesus, be established, and enter upon its universal conquests. By 1660 this monarchy was to embrace Europe as far as Rome; by 1686 it was to have prevailed over all the earth. It was to come mysteriously, suddenly, and terribly, and was to redeem the people from all ecclesiastical bondage, whether of Pope, priest, or prelate, and from all civil bondage and tyrannical laws. It was no wonder, then, that when the Barebones Parliament, which had been looked to for the inauguration of this reign of the saints under their heavenly King, was ignominiously compelled to retire before the Protectorate of the man Cromwell, fearful judgments were denounced, and that in many a secret consultation it was argued that to put the usurping man out of the way would be doing God service. With voice and pen John Rogers signalled himself. Against the Presbyterians he fulminated his "Bethshemesh, a Tabernacle for the Sun; or, Irenicum Evangelicum"; against the lawyers, his "Sagrir; or, Dooms-day drawing nigh, with Thunder and Lightning to Lawyers." Against the Protector himself he preached and plotted, and thus entitled his fifth letter to him:—"Mene, Tekel, Perez; or, A Little Appearance of the Hand-writing (in a Glance of Light) against the Powers and Apostates of the Times. By a Letter written to, and lamenting over, Oliver Lord Cromwell. In this woful Hour of his Temptation, and of Sion's sore pangs, and Solemn Appeals; and of the precious Saints imprisonment and persecution for this most Glorious, betrayed, denied, and crucified Cause of Christ 'Jesus, King of Saints and Nations.'" After the citation of several verses of Scripture, and of two impassioned Latin verses, the inscription of the letter finishes with this adjuration to Cromwell:—"Sinite Virgam Corripientem ne sentiatis Malleum Contentem." The style and quality of a letter thus begun may be easily imagined, though it certainly is of a far milder, persuasive, and more reasonable type than his writings against the Presbyterians and the lawyers, who were the special aversion of the worthy polemic. Mr. Rogers' violent conduct could not be overlooked. He was several times committed to prison, where he and his family were made to undergo many most severe privations and hardships by the soldiers on guard. This harsh treatment was not always unprovoked. Mr. Rogers seemed at times to covet the crown of martyrdom. Cromwell's personal treatment of him was not ungenerous; he appeared to look upon him as a misguided, but not an ill-intentioned man, whom he would willingly, had it been prudent, have left to his own devices, in the hope that he would win his way back to better thoughts. The Protector admitted Rogers once to a personal discussion, and showed no want of forbearance or kind feeling in listening to his complaints. On the death of Cromwell, Rogers joined the party of Sir Henry Vane, and opposed Richard Cromwell. At the Restoration of Charles II. he returned to Holland and studied medicine, which he afterwards practised in England. The time of his death is unknown.

To those who love to open the old chests in muniment rooms, full of musty manuscripts and worm-eaten memorials of buried generations—the material of history—and out of these remains to revive the forms of the forgotten dead, these memorials of an unquiet spirit in a time of unrest and change will be very acceptable.

"CONVERSATIONS ON CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS."*

About the end of the year 1865 the Liberation Society offered a prize of 50*l.* for the production of a work which should contain an exposition, adapted to the understanding of young persons, of the Society's principles, in their religious, moral, and political aspects. Mr. Guthrie's book has been selected by impartial adjudicators, and adopted by the Society, in preference to numerous competitors, as best answering the purpose for which such a work

was designed, and is now issued under the above title. It will be taken for granted that a work so closely identified with the Liberation Society does not compromise at any point or in any degree the neutrality of the Society in relation to matters of doctrine, nor the distinct and advanced principles of religious equality held by what are termed "political" Dissenters. It therefore remains for the reviewer in these columns simply to indicate by quotation and abridgment the general scope of the writer's argument.

We deem it in some respects unfortunate that the impression should be so widely entertained that this book is intended only for the young. True, a work for the young was desired, and its production in the shape of Mr. Guthrie's book is a matter for congratulation, but if its study is limited to the circle of young readers, this result will certainly not arise from any failure of the writer to grasp and to set forth in a style which all may read with pleasure the whole question of civil establishments of religion whether in the "abstract" or the "concrete." It is to be regretted that the author has placed himself at a disadvantage with regard to general readers by adopting a form of dialogue in which, although the lion's share of the discussion is claimed by the "Ecclesiastical Mentor" himself in the person of "Mr. Fairfield," the intervening remarks are made by youths, ingenuous it is true, but slightly verdant.

Relieving the question of extraneous topics, Mr. Guthrie commences the discussion by stating it thus briefly:—

"Ought the Christian Church, or any section of it, to be constituted by the Civil Government the Church of the nation, so as to have its faith and its forms fixed by State authority, its ministers paid out of State funds, and its affairs subjected to State Control? Churchmen, of course, answer, Yes. Most Dissenters emphatically answer, No!"

To this question he proceeds to give answer by considering the arguments for and against Establishments of religion in general, as drawn from the Old and New Testaments, from the nature and province of civil government, from their moral, political, and religious effects, and from a consideration of the origin, order, and constitution of the Established Churches of the United Kingdom, and the origin, progress, and influence of Dissent in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and of the effects of Voluntaryism in the British colonies and America.

Starting with Melchizedec, "and some," he says, "have even gone down into Egypt for help," he remarks:—

"Any reader, even if he reads running, might see that there is no trace here of a compulsory tithe-law. Abraham gave tithes voluntarily, Melchizedec did not exact them. Nor do we read that Abraham gave them stately, but only on that one memorable occasion, when he returned laden with the spoils of the conquered kings. Of these spoils he gave the man of God a tenth. By this he expressed his gratitude to that God whose priest Melchizedec was; and also to Melchizedec himself for his hospitality and benediction. What Melchizedec's stated arrangements were with his own people, the inspired historian does not inform us. No hint does he drop of compulsory exactions or distrust of goods for the support of religion. In the absence of such information, we shall continue to be 'persuaded better things' of him whose name was 'King of Righteousness' and 'King of Peace,' than to attribute to him a compulsory method of supporting religion, which agrees as little with 'righteousness' and 'peace' as fire does with water."

Passing to the Jewish theocracy, "the great model on which our opponents build," he continues—

"Our first and decisive answer to them is, that it is fatal to all such reasoning that the Jewish polity was one wholly peculiar. It has no parallel among nations, and never had. It was not so much a State-Church as a Church-State. In it, the Church did not so much exist for the State, as the State did for the Church. It has been called 'a Church nationalised'; but it might more justly, perhaps, be called 'a nation ecclesiasticalised'—a nation consecrated into a church. It was 'a kingdom of priests,' a holy nation, 'a peculiar people.' Whoever, then, would argue for State-Churches from the Jewish Church, must begin by proving every modern State to be parallel to the Jewish State."

After referring to the arguments of Hooker and Bunsen, in favour of a National Church, he adds:—

"Nor does God mean that it should be practicable that the Jewish theocracy should reproduce and maintain itself in every nation under the Christian era. He meant it to cease, and find fulfilment as a type in the spiritual community of the Christian Church as distinguished from the world; and to the Christian Church accordingly, its names, in their spiritual significance, are transferred; as you will see, for example, in 1 Pet. ii. 9; Heb. vii. 12; viii. 13. 'The middle wall was thrown down,' for the express purpose of inaugurating a new dispensation which, being both spiritual and universal, makes national theocracies now altogether out of the question. No one territory can ever now be made exclusively sacred for the Church. 'The hour has come when neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem,' nor anywhere else exclusively, 'shall men

* Some Account of the Life and Opinions of a Fifth-Monarchy Man. Chiefly extracted from the Writings of John Rogers, Preacher. By the Rev. EDWARD ROGERS, M.A., Student of Christ Church, Oxford. (Longmans.)

* Conversations on Church Establishments. By the Rev. JOHN GUTHRIE, M.A. (Liberation Society, and Arthur Miall, Bouverie-street, E.C.)

worship the Father, but everywhere the true worshippers shall worship Him in spirit and in truth.

What God has thus sanctified let no earthly power call common or unclean. The Christian Church, instead of being gathered into one nation, is being gathered out of all nations. It is, indeed, one; but it is one in a sense that is spiritual, not national; and in a form that is diffused, not centralized. Its only proper establishment is its own proper constitution. Its only priesthood (after Christ's) is the 'royal priesthood' of the Christian people. Its only source of support is its own native promptings of faith, love, and zeal. And so it must be, if it is ever to reach its world-wide destination. Any attempt to set up a petty theocracy in England or elsewhere, would be an attempt to upset God's plan for evangelizing the whole world. And all such attempts have failed, as they ever must, in ignominious failure."

The passages in the Old Testament relied upon by the advocates of State-Churchism in relation to "tithes" and "the nursing fathers" are well explained, and numerous instances cited, of those which on the other hand inculcate the principle of Voluntaryism as the very life of the Jewish religion, to be applied to the support of the priesthood, to sacrificial offerings, to the building of the Tabernacle, and to the maintenance generally of the ancient religion. The New Testament is then appealed to. In dealing with the text, "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers," he adopts Dr. Brown's argument, which indeed is the only and obvious solution of a difficulty that is no more than apparent. The New Testament is then shown to condemn Church Establishments by its general principles and by its special laws, and distinctly to lay down the principles of Voluntaryism. In answer to the inquiry, "Shall Caesar determine the State religion," he says:—

"If conceded it would have produced the most monstrous inconsistency. Henry VIII. would have been right in establishing his bastard Protestantism; and Edward VI. equally right in modifying it. Mary was equally right, and not a whit less sincere, in engulfing the new Protestant Establishment in a sea of blood and fire. Elizabeth was no less right (but also no more) in restoring the Protestant Church; and the later Stuarts were equally right in plotting to restore the Papal faith. And equally right will it be for the Sultan to uphold the Mahometan Establishment, and for the King of Dahomey to maintain, as the established system, a religion which floats galleys in seas of human blood."

Enough has been said to show that Mr. Guthrie has written a book which may well be recognised as a manual for young persons and for the uninitiated in the State-Church controversy; we must not omit to state that in dealing with the historical aspects of the question he has travelled over a considerable range, and while illustrating the evil effects of State Establishments of religion by events which were passing around us even as late as November last, he has found arguments in support of his principles in the history of many other States and countries than our own. We conclude by cordially and earnestly commending the book to our readers, as fully answering the purpose for which it was written.

NEW EDITIONS.

History of Civilisation in England. By HENRY THOMAS BUCKLE. In Three Volumes. (Longmans, Green, and Co.) The publication of what we suppose may be called a "cabinet edition" of Mr. Buckle's now celebrated work, will be received with pleasure and gratitude by innumerable students and book-buyers, and will revive the sadness—with which also many will have perused the fragment on the reign of Elizabeth, in the current number of *Fraser*—which was generally and deeply felt at the premature close of a life and literary career so thoroughly and purely devoted to learning and to human interests. Mr. Buckle's work will never, we think, prove to be what some of its most eager admirers at first predicted—"an epoch-making book"; nor will it be as distracting as some feared to the thought, or as injurious to the moral feeling and judgment, of those who allow it to lead their contemplations of the march of society: and, least of all, will it permanently influence the method and spirit of the investigation of history, or the estimation of the resources for future discovery possessed by the two great classes consisting of the students of mind and the students of nature. Familiarity with these volumes has greatly heightened our appreciation of the author, but not of his work; and it is only with reserve that we can say we welcome its republication, or expect it to assist anything more ultimately than a reaction against narrow and traditional feeling in the estimate of the more conspicuous circumstances to which the progress of English civilisation is to be ascribed. It would be ridiculous for us to attempt to review the book itself at this date, and within such limits as this journal permits. We therefore content ourselves with an expression of opinion which necessarily does injustice to our acquaintance with it, and may seem also to do injustice to its very remarkable merits. Undoubtedly it is a great book, not only for its vast knowledge and its literary perfectness, but for its clear integrity of purpose, and for frequent views, equally broad and true, of bases of history, the neglect of which hitherto has inflicted on historical generalisation much of arbitrariness and barrenness. We should hardly

satisfy ourselves, however, if we did not add that we know no book in the literature of the last quarter of a century more likely to exert a disturbing, misleading, blinding influence on half-educated, unsettled, and presumptuous minds, as to the conclusions it encourages concerning human nature and social philosophy, and especially as to the formation of opinion on higher subjects by what the author calls "that purely transcendental process, of which in every age glimpses have been granted to a few gifted minds." And we must confess to somewhat of aversion to the book on a quite minor point, namely, that its extraordinarily numerous references to books of all times and all descriptions, do not seem to us, in very many cases, to bear out the author's generalisations, and certainly do not satisfy the student. Some of the passages are little more than phrases; others mere jots and tittles of fact; others the veriest phantoms of notional opinion, that needed no such elaborate identification; while others have still more, in common with the preliminary forty pages containing the "list of works quoted," the more ostentatious and parade of learning. There remains, notwithstanding, as we willingly admit, a large body of notes that show how marvellously varied and rich had been the author's reading, and that accumulate references with no less valuable a result than to put the reader in possession of all known sources of information for the particular points the author has taken in hand. It will be understood that these fragmentary observations have in view those only of our readers who may not already have any personal knowledge of Mr. Buckle's work.

Poetical Works of Sir Walter Scott, Bart. With a Biographical Memoir by FRANCIS TURNER PALGRAVE. The "Globe Edition." (Macmillan and Co.) All classes in the three kingdoms will thank the publishers of that incomparable "Globe Edition of Shakespeare" which has put to shame all previous single-volume Shakespeares, for the issue of the companion volume now before us, the "Globe" edition of the poems of Sir Walter Scott. Were it simply a reprint, we might say of it, for finished paper, clear type, and general beauty of appearance, that there is no popular edition to be compared with it, and that it can hardly be surpassed. But there is a very interesting feature of this edition which should still further commend it. Mr. Palgrave, whose name is now well known as one of the most thoughtful and elegant of our critics, has written a sketch of Scott's life with the special purpose of thereby throwing light on his poetry. This biography, though brief, is complete in its main points, and is written with much care and delicacy, yet with decision and strength. Mr. Palgrave takes a somewhat new view of Scott's character, and of the peculiar quality of his genius. He regards him as one beyond all others in literature whose mind was habitually balanced between the real and the unreal,—who, on the one hand, as a shrewd Scotchman of the critical eighteenth century, was a born sceptic in romance, the Middle Ages, and Jacobitism, and, on the other, as a man of the strongest imaginative temperament, was also a born believer,—and whose worldly shrewdness, often passing into an overestimate of his practical powers, was employed under the influence of a wish to conceal his inner or poetical mind from the world,—thus presenting continually a half-conscious attempt, in his writings and in his character alike, at a real and practical compromise between these opposing elements. We give but the hint of the leading idea of this sketch, and give assurance to our readers that, whatever may be their familiarity with the works of Sir Walter, or with the best criticisms of his writings, they will find in Mr. Palgrave's memoir much to afford them immediate gratification, and heighten their enjoyment of the picturesqueness and admirable spirit of the poems and novels of (as it is suggested he might be styled) "the eponymous hero of Scotland." We are in every way satisfied and delighted with this edition.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Wedding Guests; or, the Happiness of Life. A Novel. By Mrs. HUME ROTHERY. (London: F. Pittman.) We hardly know whether we are correct in supposing that this is intended to be a novel without a hero. At any rate it is not easy to determine which of the characters is designed to occupy that post of honour. All the young ladies are charming, but two of them are more prominent than the rest, and around these the chief interest of the tale is centred. Contrary to the usual custom, the book begins with a wedding and ends with a death. The end, however, is by no means gloomy, but precisely what artistic considerations require. There is very little concealment or plot in the progress of the narrative, but what there is the author has managed with considerable skill. Helen Montagu falls in love with Bernard Huntley, and he with her. But they both "let concealment, &c.," in a highly provoking manner. At length a friend of Huntley's—and who, though a Dissembler, Mrs. Hume Rothery is not ashamed to make the best character in the book—puts things to rights in a conversation which, on his death bed, he holds with Huntley. He supplies his friend with light on the subject which, if Huntley had been as clever as we are required to believe, he would never have needed. What the mystery was we must not disclose. We are too frequently reminded of the proverb, "Talk of a certain personage, and he is sure to appear." Instances of this occur

twice before we have got over fifteen pages. People come suddenly into rooms in the most abrupt and awkward manner just at that point in a conversation which they ought never to have heard. The clever people do not very well sustain their character. Helen Montagu, for instance, who has the reputation of being clever to an excess, goes into quite needless fits of enthusiasm, and exclaims to a young lady she has only known for a few hours, "A sudden thought strikes me. Let us swear eternal friendship!" which of course they do on the spot. There is too much preaching in the book. We should hardly take up a book entitled "the Wedding Guests" with the view of receiving instruction on the doctrine of Special Providence, but the author has apparently written to exhibit that doctrine. In her attempt to convey religious truth by the help of fiction, as well as in her mode of doing it, she reminds us of Mrs. Sherwood in some of the tales of "The Lady of the Manor." Mrs. Hume Rothery, like Mrs. Sherwood, is sometimes unreal, and takes views of God's Providence which are not true to Him or to His creatures. It is not, for example, a Christian sentiment that a young lady full of life and spirits should talk superciliously of "an instinctive dread of death" being "like a child's fear of the dark," and should feel that she could "unrepiningly bid adieu to the beautiful world around her." Nor are we required, as our author teaches, to feel no indignation against our enemies, because they are but God's instruments. All things are overruled for good, but none the less are foolish and wicked people to be condemned. But Mrs. Hume Rothery seems to acquit such people of all responsibility. Saving this blemish, the tale is well told. Without answering for its theology, we can safely say it will do no one any harm. It is immensely better than the average of the shoal of novels every season produces, and it has the great advantage of increasing in interest as it goes on.

The Autobiography of the Rev. E. Mathews, the "Father Dickson" of Mrs. Stowe's "Dred." Also a Description of the Influence of the Slave Party over the American Presidents, and the Rise and Progress of the Anti-Slavery Reform. With a Preface by HANDEL COSSHAM, Esq. (London: Houlston and Wright.) All readers of "Dred" will be pleased to find "Father Dickson" offering himself to their more intimate acquaintance. In forming this closer acquaintance they will receive much information on the characters and actions of the different American Presidents; and, as they accompany the reformer on his many anti-slavery expeditions, will see for themselves the relation in which the negro stands to the white man, and the gentle character of a Southern slaveholder, the quality of a Southern mob, the evils manifold of slavery, and the perils that beset the advocate of abolition.

Stories from Greek Mythology. By the Rev. JAMES WOOD, Edinburgh. (T. Nelson and Sons.) Eight of the exquisite creations of the Greek Mythology are here presented in a dress of purple beauty, attractive but not voluptuous, true to the originals, but supplemented from some excellent German versions of the myths. They are so rendered as to form very interesting and thought-stimulating reading to the young folks at home, to whom the Pagan marvels are likely to be a closed book. "Orpheus and Eurydice," "The Tale of the beautiful Psyche," "Midas," and "The Argonauts," are among the myths selected.

Taking Tales for Cottage Homes. Tom Trueman, the Sailor; or, Life at Sea in a Merchant Vessel. Edited by W. H. G. KINGSTON. (Griffith and Farran.) Tom Trueman tells the tale of his own adventures, and so easily, and in such simple words, that every inmate of a cottage could delight in it. He seems to be sitting by the fireside, spinning his yarn amid a throng of open-mouthed listeners. The new and strange things which a sailor sees, and the perils which are ever about him, are well described. If all the tales of this series are as interesting as this, they will be sure to take.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Swedenborg's Works, 2 vols.; 'Labour and Wait, 2 vols (Houlston and Wright). The Child's Gospel, by the Rev. John Stock (E. Stock). The Book of Praises, by W. H. Alexander (Jackson, Walford, and Co.). The Life and Work of St. Paul, by Alexander Roberts, D.D. (James Blackwood and Co.). The Homœopathic Directory of Great Britain and Ireland for 1867 (Turner and Co.). The Ecclesiastical History of England, by John Stoughton, 2 vols. (Jackson, Walford, and Co.). Abridgment of Cruden's Concordance (Routledge). Scripture Studies: Our Church and Our Times (Saunders, Otley, and Co.). Literal Translation of the Ancient Psalms, in appropriate metres, by Dalman Haystone, M.A. (Oliphant and Co.). Eight Acrostics on the Bible (E. Stock). Laurie's Standard Series of Educational Works (Marshall and Laurie). Ritualists; or, the Cope and the Owl; A Lay by a Layman (Hall and Co.). Ten Miles from Town (Freeman).

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

Mr. T. R. Bartlett, the American bibliographer, has published a catalogue of six thousand and seventy-three books and pamphlets relating to the great civil war.

On the 1st of March will appear the *Methodist Quarterly*, a review of matters interesting to the various sections of the Methodist body.

Messrs. Blackwood and Sons are about to issue an illustrated edition of the novels of George Eliot,

in sixpenny numbers, to be published on the 1st of each month. The series will commence on the 1st of March with "Adam Bede."

CRYSTAL PALACE LIBRARY.—The contents of the Crystal Palace Library, which comprised upwards of 5,000 volumes, composed exclusively of presentation works, having been completely destroyed by the recent fire, the directors, gratefully recognising the disposition on the part of the public so far as possible to replace the loss in this department, intimate, with a view to its re-establishment, that they are prepared to accept any contributions of standard or other works, either from booksellers, publishers, or private sources. Several valuable donations have already been received, which will form the nucleus of a new library.

THE MAYER COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES.—Mr. Joseph Mayer, of Liverpool, has presented to the Liverpool Free Library and Museum the whole of his magnificent collection of Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon remains, one of the rarest and finest in Europe, the only stipulation he has imposed being that the collection shall not be separated and shall bear his name.

THE LIONS IN TRAPALGAR-SQUARE.—How, then, has Sir E. Landseer succeeded in his enterprise? Does he need any indulgence on account of inexperience? Considering what he has achieved in so short a time, we may perhaps regret that he had not more constantly practised the art of modelling; but comparing his work with that of our practised sculptors, the answer must be simply that he needs no indulgence at all; and it is perhaps unnecessary to refer to the Guards' Monument in Waterloo-place as evidence that in the sculptor's peculiar province he has succeeded well where experience does not always prevent error; there is no point from which any one of the lions appears ludicrous. They are all couching, but on the watch, with heads erect and shoulders and fore-paws advanced. And here it should be stated at once that all four are identical, save only that the heads of two of them are turned to the left and of the others to the right; or, if there be any other difference, it is so minute as not to be perceptible, except upon very detailed scrutiny. The animals' immense strength is well indicated by the deeply-marked muscles of the back and loins, and the attitude of repose is accompanied by an appearance of potential action which suggests far more real vitality than the closest imitation of actual and violent movement. In all quadrupeds, and not least in the feline race, the tail is very indicative of temper and mood, and the artist has properly bestowed some of his best care in modelling this part. The full swing of those tails would mean something terrible. The eyes are averted, and the mouth half open, so as to show the tongue resting between two fangs of the lower jaw. These peculiarities, which are habitual to the lion in his imprisoned state, the artist has chosen to imitate literally, not caring for the doubt how far they may be proper to him when free; some additional spice of character at all events is thus gained. Looking at the grand proportions of their heads, and their eyes deep-set under a slightly knit and anxious brow, one can understand the feeling that made the lion the emblem of wisdom, and his head the type on which to model the front of Jove himself. The ferocity of the brute has nevertheless not been forgotten in the sensitive upper lip, cruelly fit to mouth a prey. The best views are of three-quarter front or back; especially the latter, as seen across the base of the monument between the plinth which carries the bas-reliefs and any of the nearer lions. And if this latter view is taken on a sunny day, when the shadow of the column is cast across the lion, the bronze of which he is made will exhibit a most beautiful combination of delicate greys and greens, like the plumage of a green plover. This of course will soon disappear under the blackening influence of our soot-laden atmosphere, an influence which is more injurious to bronze than to stone or marble, and suggests a doubt whether bronze be a desirable material for metropolitan monuments.—*Spectator.*

Miscellaneous News.

THE CATTLE-PLAGUE.—The *Leds Mercury* says that the cattle-plague has reappeared in the neighbourhood of Halifax, upon the farm of Mr. Sutcliffe, of Warley, who was a severe sufferer by the disease last year.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—The *British Medical Journal* understands that a supplementary charter for the University of London has been drafted, with a view to carry out a proposition which has already been approved and shaped in convocation and senate, for enabling women to receive certificates of proficiency from that university. It is not proposed to admit them to ordinary degrees, but to hold examinations, and to give certificates which will enable ladies who propose to engage in tuition, and others, to assume a definite position, and to afford accepted guarantees of their proficiency.

SURREY CHAPEL POPULAR LECTURES.—The usual weekly entertainment was on Monday night of the most encouraging character. The Rev. W. Brock, of Bloomsbury, was the lecturer, and his address comprised the story of a journey from England to America, so far out as Chicago. The lecturer's eulogy on General Grant and the progress of freedom elicited immense applause from the audience, and the peroration in which he besought the audience to labour to cement a good understanding between the two nations, and to pray that the interests of peace and

righteousness might ever be cultivated by their peoples, led to a complete ovation. T. A. Denny, Esq., took the chair, and the usual thanks were accorded at the close.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—At a Session of Council on Saturday last, a resolution was passed to record the regret of the council at the loss which the college had sustained by the death of Mr. Henry Crabb Robinson, thirty-two years a member of their body, who had been a liberal benefactor to the college, and during that long period one of the most assiduous members of the council and senate. A deed by Mr. Robinson, securing a fund of 2,000*l.* for the support of the Flaxman Gallery, was presented by Mr. Field.

INTERCOMMUNICATION BETWEEN PASSENGERS, GUARD, AND DRIVER.—The carriages of the South-Eastern Company which make up the up and down mail and tidal trains between London and Dover, and between London and Folkestone, have been fitted with Walker's patent electrical apparatus, for intercommunication between passengers and guard and between guard and driver. The trains made up of carriages so fitted commenced running on Monday last. The guards and the French and English conductors who work the trains have been fully instructed as to the use of the apparatus.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Sir John Burgess Karslake, the Solicitor-General, was on Monday elected for Andover without opposition, filling the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. W. H. Humphrey, who has sat for the borough since the death of his father-in-law, the late Mr. William Cubitt. The proceedings passed off very quietly. Yesterday Mr. Chatterton, the Irish Solicitor-General, was returned for Dublin University unopposed. There are now three candidates in the field for Cork county—Mr. Barry, who goes for tenant right, religious equality, and freedom of education; Colonel Luke White, the nominee of the Roman Catholic bishops; and Mr. Vincent Scully. But there is an impression abroad that the latter will now resign.

IMPROVED INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS COMPANY.—The report of the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company, to be presented at the half-yearly meeting to be held at the Mansion House on the 14th inst., states that since June last 18,200*l.* additional capital has been subscribed, and that the total now amounts to 63,775*l.* All the dwellings of the company are fully occupied, and applications for vacant tenements are still largely in excess of the number available. A contract has been signed for the erection of six blocks of dwellings, comprising 168 tenements, opposite the company's present buildings at King's-cross-road. Four of these will be on the same plan as Palmerston-buildings, in the City-road, and two have been designed with the view of providing single room tenements. The directors are desirous of treating for other plots of land in populous neighbourhoods. The provisions of the act passed last May for advances to enterprises of this kind have not yet come into force. It is hoped, however, in the course of a few weeks to obtain under it a loan of 50,000*l.* or 60,000*l.* A large proportion of Palmerston-buildings was not completed and fully occupied until September last, but the directors are enabled to declare the usual dividend at the rate of five per cent. per annum, and at the same time to reiterate the conviction expressed in their original prospectus, that the enterprise is to be recommended, not only on the ground of its usefulness, but also on account of its being a safe and profitable investment.

THE DISTRESS IN THE EAST OF LONDON.—At the meeting of the Mansion House Relief Committee on Friday, Mr. Robert Wigram, the well-known shipowner, took occasion to say that he believed no work had been lost to London by the course pursued by the shipwrights; in other words, that all the charges made by the Lord Mayor, the *Times*, Mr. John Ford, Lord Delamere, &c., &c., against this respectable body of artisans were unfounded. A deputation waited on Saturday upon the Earl of Derby to impress upon his lordship the necessity of something being done to relieve the distress in the east of London. Some suggestions and statements were made which deserve attention. Mr. Potter asked that the contracts for the ships the Government intend to build should be given out at once to the shipbuilders on the Thames. To that Lord Derby replied that the Government must of course consider the public interest in what they did. Mr. Hughes, the manager of the Millwall Iron Works, asked that the Government should give their orders immediately for the iron they required for guns and gun carriages, instead of at the usual time—a little later in the year. He promised that if this were done the Government should not be asked for the money until the usual time. Mr. Bolt, a shipwright, then gave his lordship a true version of the case of the shipwrights and the Thames Shipbuilding Company. Lord Derby promised, at the Cabinet Council, to consult General Peel and Sir J. Pakington on the matters to which reference had been made. On Monday it was reported, at the meeting of the Mansion House Committee, that the total subscriptions received amounted to 12,316*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, and that grants had been made to the amount of 7,455*l.*, leaving an available balance of 4,861*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

INTOXICATING DRINKS ON SUNDAYS.—Mr. Gladstone received a deputation on Wednesday from Manchester at his residence, Carlton-house-terrace. It consisted of some twenty working men of various trades and political parties, who were appointed at a large and enthusiastic meeting recently held in the Free-trade Hall, to consider the sale of intoxicating liquors

on the Sunday. The deputation was accompanied by the Hon. A. Kinnaid, M.P., and was introduced by the Rev. John Garrett, D.D. The subject was opened to Mr. Gladstone by Mr. F. Smith, joiner, who stated various facts and brought forward many arguments to prove the impolicy and injustice of the present system, and, as a working man, appealed to Mr. Gladstone to introduce, or at least to support, a bill for extending the present restrictions to the whole of Sunday, in order that the neighbourhoods inhabited by working men may be as quiet and orderly on the Sunday as the localities in which the wealthier classes reside. Mr. Gladstone entered into a conversation on the subject, which was prolonged for more than an hour. Mr. Ball and other members of the deputation brought before his notice facts and figures to prove that these houses are demoralising the people, and causing increased crime and immorality; which was well sustained by statistics quoted by Mr. Foster. Mr. Hinton (mechanic) objected to the present system, because it was a monopoly which he thought no class of tradesmen ought to enjoy. The deputation also stated their belief that the whole body of intelligent working men were anxious to obtain such a measure, and that they were willing to test all large towns by a house-to-house canvass and abide by the result. Mr. Gladstone requested to be supplied with detailed information upon three points which he specified as of vital importance in bringing the matter before Parliament; and expressed much pleasure at having received such a deputation. The men withdrew with feelings of deep gratitude at the cordial manner in which their request had been treated.

THE MEMBERLESS MEMBER.—Mr. Kavanagh, the new member for the county of Wexford, concerning whose first appearance in Parliament much curiosity had been excited, was sworn in on Wednesday, at the table, and signed the Parliamentary Roll. The hon. member entered the House from the direction of the Speaker's private apartments, seated in a library chair, the mechanism of which is so contrived that he can wheel himself with ease to any point he wishes to reach. The large copy of the Testament used in administering oaths to members was managed—one cannot use the word handled—by Mr. Kavanagh without the least difficulty, and he wrote his name with as much quickness and apparent ease as any of his fellow members of Parliament. The process was as follows:—The clerk handed to Mr. Kavanagh a pen with a handle of the length to which he is accustomed. The hon. member clasped the handle between what represents his arms, and, steadying it by putting the end in his mouth, guided the pen over the parchment with singular fluency and steadiness. This ceremony ended, he was introduced to the Speaker, and then apparently quitted the House. The proceedings, however, terminating soon afterwards, Mr. Kavanagh reappeared when the majority of members had left, and, accompanied by one or two friends, proceeded to familiarise himself with the internal arrangements of the building, as regards the distribution of seats, lobbies for voting, &c. At one moment, his friends having walked on a little in advance, Mr. Kavanagh showed of what exertion he was capable by propelling his chair with such velocity as speedily to overtake them.

Gleanings.

The Mormon's religion is singular and his wives plural.—*Artemus Ward.*

A college for young coloured men has been established at Washington called the "Howard University."

A member of the Tennessee Legislature ekes out his income by serving as a waiter in a restaurant.—*New York Letter.*

Mr. Sims Reeves is to receive 1,500*l.* for twelve special performances at Drury-lane Theatre, which are announced for the week following the 16th of March.

The *Glasgow Herald* notes the holding of "a meeting of Atheists" to celebrate the 130th birthday of Tom Paine! There are said to have been "about 200 assembled."

On Thursday night there was a frightful accident at the Sandhills Station, at Liverpool. Just as a train was nearing the station it knocked down three of the company's servants, who were killed on the spot.

After three years of disappointment, the water committee of the Birkenhead Commissioners have at last bored down to 508 feet, at the Flaybrick Hill Works, from which they now obtain daily a million and a-half gallons of splendid water.

A Connecticut office-seeker closed a recent application for office with an inquiry whether the breach between the President and Congress could not be repaired. President Johnson wrote, in reply, that he is not so much in the line of "repairing breeches" as he formerly was.

GAIN AND GODLINESS.—The *New York Christian Advocate*, in recording a "revival" adds in italics, as the choicest item in the paragraph, "Brother Hinckle has powerfully touched the conscience of callous sinners, and succeeded in doubling the list of subscribers to our excellent paper."

BOLD CERTAINLY.—Miss Buchanan once rallying her cousin, an officer, on his courage, said, "Now, Mr. Harry, do you really mean to tell me you can walk up to a cannon's mouth without fear?"—

"Yes," was the prompt reply, "or a Buchanan's either." And he did it.

CURIOSITIES WANTED.—A bunch of blossom from a railway plant; the topmost bough of an axle-tree; a crust from the roll of the ocean; a feather from the crest of a wave; some quills from the wings of the wind; a look of hair from the head of a column; a hoop from the pale of society; the knife used by ringers when peeling bells; a broom for sweeping assertions; a collar for a neck of land; a quizzing-glass for an eye to business; a rocker from the cradle of the deep; a few tears from a weeping willow; and some down from the bosom of a lake.—*American Paper.*

ADULTERATION OF COFFEE.—The report of the Inland Revenue states that the unscrupulous portion of the dealers in coffee, finding that an unlawful profit could no longer be obtained by the sale of chicory, have resorted to the use of another article much better suited for the adulteration of coffee than even chicory itself, and one which was surreptitiously used many years ago, and through which the success of more than one of the now called "eminent" firms in the coffee-trade was established. The adulterant is known in the trade as "finings," but it is simply burnt sugar or caramel, and has only about one-third the value of duty-paid coffee.

SEASONABLE DRESS.—We adapt our dress to spring, summer, autumn, and winter, but often with very little success, at least so far as comfort is concerned. It seems to be forgotten that a little extra looseness of dress will produce coolness, and that a thin covering in the heat of the sun fails to protect us from the heat. Thin dark clothes in a hot summer are especially uncomfortable, and a black hat, however light, is in some places enough to roast the brains, when exposed to the full power of the sun's rays. Remember, as a rule, that light-coloured clothes keep the heat in the body when the air is cold, and when the sun is warm, keep the heat from reaching the body better than dark. Remember, also, that a woollen covering keeps the skin at an equal temperature better than linen.—*Leisure Hour.*

HOW TO GET MEASURED FOR BOOTS OR SHOES.—If you want a shoe to fit you comfortably, next time you are measured for a pair, stand upon a piece of paper, and get the shoemaker to trace with pencil the outline of each foot; each foot, I say, because two feet are never alike in size and shape, though they belong to the same person. They are more than right and left; they are unlike. Don't suppose that you can be measured for a pair by the most careful measurement of one. Insist on having the outlines as well as the girth and length of each foot taken, and then, if the maker is an honest man, he will send home a pair of boots which, with their turned-in toes, will look unpromising when off, but when once on will prove not only the most becoming, but the most comfortable you ever wore.—*Leisure Hour.*

PAT'S DREAM.—An Irishman was amusing some country friends with the various exploits of his life, but finding that his host did not notice the empty glass before him, reminded him of it in the following humorous manner:—"Faith, it's myself had a quare drame now. I dreamt I was in Rome, and that I called upon his reverence the Pope. I had hardly rapped at the door, when his Holiness himself opened it. 'Ah, Pat,' says he, 'is it you that are come to see me?'—'Faith, your honour, and it's nobody else,' says I. 'Come up stairs wid me,' he cried. And sure there was the handsomest room as ever you clapped eyes on. 'Be sated now,' said his reverence; 'and what will you be taking?' I was bothered for the moment, but I just said, 'A drop o' the orator'; when he turns to me, and says, 'Shall it be hot or cold?'—'Hot,' says I. And away went his Holiness to fetch the hot water, and before he came back I awoke. Arrah! what a fool I was I didn't have it cold or nate!"

"Agrippa P. Squogga" writes to Fun, and wants to know why on "airth" the well-known nursery rhyme, "Sing a Song of Sixpence," should be attributed to our ancestors. The following is the original version:—

Sing a song of dollars,
A pocket full of brass,
Five-and-thirty swallows
Baked in apple cake;
When they raised the river
The birds began a hoverin';
Wasn't this a tallish diah
To set before a Sovereign?

The King was in the treasury
Totting up his seel,
The Queen was at the table d'hôte
Loading bread and treacle,
The help was down the garden
A hanging out the wash,
Down came a bobalink
And snapt off her proboscis.

"HIGH-FALUTIN."—We are told that there was a paper in Cincinnati which was very much given to "high-falutin" on the subject of "this great country," until a rival paper somewhat modified its continual bounce with the following burlesque:—"This is a glorious country! It has longer rivers, and more of them, and they are muddier and deeper, and run faster, and rise higher, and make more noise, and fall lower, and do more damage than anybody else's rivers. It has more lakes, and they are bigger and deeper, and clearer, and wetter than those of any other country. Our rail-cars are bigger, and run faster, and pitch off the track oftener, and kill more people than all other rail-cars in this and every other country. Our steamboats carry bigger loads, are longer and broader, burst their boilers oftener,

and send up their passengers higher, and the captains swear harder than steamboat captains in any other country. Our men are bigger, and longer, and thicker; can fight harder and faster, drink more mean whisky, chew more bad tobacco, and spit more, and spit further than in any other country. Our ladies are richer, prettier, dress finer, spend more money, break more hearts, wear bigger hoops, shorter dresses, and kick up the devil generally to a greater extent than all other ladies in all other countries. Our children squall louder, grow faster, get too expansive for their pantaloons, and become twenty years old sooner by some months than any other children of any other country on the earth."—*Quarterly Review*, new number.

A LINCOLNSHIRE CHARM FOR THE AGUE.—In a work on "Folk Lore," recently published, the Rev. George Ormsby, Vicar of Fishlake, near Doncaster, contributes the following narrative taken from the lips of an old woman, a parishioner, lately dead:—"When I wear a young lass about eighteen years auld, or thereabouts, I were living a servant wi' a farmer down i' Marshland (borders of Lincolnshire). While I wur there I were sorely tacked wi' t' ague, and sorely I shakked wi' t'. Howsomer I got mysen cured, and I'll tell ye how it were. They were on mawing, and I had to tak' t' dinner 'it men 'at were mawing i' t' field. Sae I went wi' t' dinner, and aye o' t' men were an auld man, and while he were sitting o' t' grass, eating him dinner, I were stood lookin' at him, an' talkin' t' him, and talking alt' t' time. 'Young woman,' says he, 'ye've gotten t' shakking (a name they commonly give to the ague) very bad.' 'Ay,' says I, 'I have that.' 'Wad ye like to be shut on?' says he. 'Ay, that wud I,' said I. 'Why then,' says he, 'thou mun do as I tell thee. Dost thou see yon espin-tree t'other side o' the field, ther?' 'Ay, dif I,' says I. 'Why then, ma lass, thou mun gan along to where thou sees ma coat lying yonder, and thou'nt fin' a knife in ma pocket, and thou mun tak' t' knife and out off a long lock o' thy heer (and lang and black ma heer were then, ye may believe me); and then thou mun gan to t' espin-tree; and thou mun pin it t' it bark o' t' espin-tree; and while thou'at da'ing it thou mun say, 'Espin-tree, espin-tree, I prithee to shake and shiver instead o' me.' An it'll come to pass' at thou'lt niver hae t' shakking more, if thou nobbot gangs straight home, and never speaks to naeboddy till thou gets thee.' Sae I did as he tellt' me, but if ye believe me I wur sorely fleyed, but howsomer t' auld man cured me that day and I've never had t' shakking fra that day to this."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

CROSSLEY.—January 30, the wife of Louis J. Crossley, Esq., of Willow Hall, near Halifax, of a daughter.

BOLTON.—January 31, the wife of the Rev. F. Bolton, B.A., Elland, Yorkshire, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

HUGHES-JAMES.—January 29, at the Tabernacle Chapel, Bangor, by the Rev. S. Roberts, William Hughes, Esq., Ty Llaters, Conway, to Miss Margaret James, of Bangor.

ROSS-LOW.—February 1, at Edinburgh, by the Rev. Alfred Barnes, United Methodist Free Church, Mr. Thomas Phillips Ross, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Mrs. Elizabeth Low, youngest daughter of the late William Lowden, Edinburgh.

AULT-AINLEY.—February 2, at West Parade Chapel, Wakefield, by the Rev. Henry Balla, Mr. Joseph Ault, Castleford, to Mary Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. John Ainley, Kirkstall, Wakefield.

STRANGE-LEY.—February 2, at the Baptist chapel, Fish ponds, Bristol, by the Rev. J. H. Hall, Mr. Joseph Strange, to Miss Beary Ley.

DAWSON-CARVER.—February 4, at the Independent chapel, Hoxley, by the Rev. Henry Hustwick, Mr. Estelle Dawson, to Ann, only daughter of Mr. Carver, all of Haddersfield.

WALMSLEY-CRAGG.—February 5, in St. Paul's Independent Chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. W. Roaf, Mr. Giles Walmsley, to Miss Jane Cragg, both of Wigan.

MARSLAND-SHACKLETON.—February 5, at the Congregational church, Square-road, Halifax, by the Rev. J. C. Gray, Mr. Thomas Marsland, Midgley, to Miss Mary Shackleton, of Warley.

CLABOUR-LONGBOTTOM.—February 6, at the Baptist chapel, Hunst, by the Rev. B. Dunn, Mr. James Bowling Clabour, of Rothwell, to Miss Mary Ann Longbottom, of Hunst.

STEWART-BIRTILL.—February 6, at the Moravian Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. J. Miller, George Stewart, Esq., general manager of the Lancashire Insurance Company, Manchester, to Lydia, youngest daughter of Samuel S. Birtill, Esq., St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

BLAXILL-KENT.—February 6, at the Congregational church, Kingsland, by the Rev. T. W. Davids, of Oolechester, assisted by the Rev. C. Winter, of Brompton (uncle of the bridegroom), Edwin Frederick, eldest son of Mr. Samuel Blaxill, of Oolechester, to Anna, only daughter of Mr. John Kent, of the same town.

EDGINTON-WAKEFIELD.—February 7, at the Independent Chapel, George-street, Oxford, by the Rev. David Martin, Mr. James Edginton, to Clara, adopted daughter of Mr. William Wakefield, of George-street, Oxford.

SIBREE-JONES.—February 7, by licence, at Brooke-street Chapel, Warwick, by the Rev. J. W. Percy, the Rev. John Sibree, of Clifton Villa, near Coventry, to Miss Louisa Jones, of Leamington.

TOBY-SKINNER.—By licence, at Salem Chapel, East Budleigh, Devon, by the Rev. W. M. Tetley, Mr. William Toby, of Colston Raleigh, to Miss Susan Skinner, of Pinn Farm, near Otterton.

DEATHS.

FURNES.—January 30, at Park-terrace, Fulwood, near Preston, Sarah Jane, the beloved wife of John Furnes, Esq., aged forty-nine years.

ASTON.—February 2, very suddenly, in the eighty-second year of his age, the Rev. Thomas Aston, of 81, Vauxhall-road, Birmingham, formerly for thirty-five years minister of the Independent chapel, Wingrove, Bucks, greatly beloved.

MILLHOUSE.—February 4, Mr. John Millhouse, senior deacon of the recently formed Baptist church, Protestant Hall, Hull, and sixteen years a deacon of George-street Chapel, Hull, and previously for more than thirty years member of the Baptist church, Boston. His end was perfect peace.

BROOKS.—February 5, at the Chapel House, Thames-street, Wallingford, after long and distressing sickness, Elizabeth,

the beloved wife of the Rev. Thomas Brooks, aged fifty-two.

ROBINSON.—February 5, at 30, Russell-square, in his ninety-second year, Henry Crab Robinson, Esq., the friend of Goethe, Wordsworth, and Lamb.

SPURGEON.—February 6, at Gressenhall, in the county of Norfolk, Elizabeth, the wife of A. C. Spurgeon, Esq., and youngest daughter of the late Rev. Robert Norris, of Tatterford, in the same county.

DARGAN.—February 7, at his residence in Dublin, Mr. William Dargan, the eminent Irish contractor, who originated the Dublin Exhibition.

FISHER.—February 7, at Kendrew-street, Darlington, Arthur Farrow, only child of Mr. S. G. Fisher, aged ten months.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

City, Tuesday Evening.

On Thursday the Bank of England Directors reduced the minimum rate of discount from 3½ to 3 per cent. The 3½ rate had lasted for seven weeks.

Out of doors the rate dropped at once from ½ to ¼ per cent. below the Bank rate.

The private and joint-stock banks generally allow 2 per cent. for money on deposit. The leading bill-brokers have reduced their rate for money at call to 2 per cent. for money, at notice to 2½ per cent.

Consols, under the stimulus of very cheap money, rose at one moment to 91½; but owing to apprehensions of political troubles, they have since receded to 90½ for money and 91 for account. In consequence of the dividends of home railway stocks being less favourable than was anticipated, these descriptions have generally fallen during the week.

At the annual general meeting of the proprietors of the London and County Banking Company, held on the 7th inst., a dividend of 14 per cent. for the half-year ending December 31, 1866, was declared. This dividend, with 11 per cent. declared for the previous half-year, makes a dividend for 1866 of 25 per cent.

The last Bank return has no feature calling for special notice.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 37, for the week ending Wednesday, Feb. 6.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£23,094,940	Government Debt	£11,013,100
		Other Securities	£3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	£3,094,900
	£23,094,940		£23,094,910

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£13,111,000
Reserve	£3,559,041	Weight annuity	£18,716,413
Public Deposits	£5,997,437	Other Securities	£10,070,770
Other Deposits	£13,267,593	Notes	£29,323
Seven Day and other	£450,436	Gold & Silver Coin	£29,323
Bills	£42,827,509		£42,827,509

Feb. 7, 1867.

FRANK MAY, Deputy Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—CONSCIENTIOUS CONVICTION.—No investment of money can be so profitable as that which insures good health. It has been established beyond dispute that Holloway's Pills, which cost but a trifle, will successfully wrestle with and overcome disease. In all the many forms in which dyspepsia, or indigestion, presents itself it may be thoroughly removed by these purifying and gently aperient pills, assisted by a diet which must be simple in quality and moderate in quantity. Long indisposition, resulting from defective appetite or imperfect assimilation, yields to this efficient treatment; and nausea, disagreeable tastes in the mouth, headache, and the annoying collection of phlegm which plagues the dyspeptic in the morning, will be banished by these balsamic and strengthening Pills.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 11.

There was only a small supply of English wheat fresh up to this morning's market; the condition of the grain is somewhat better than of late. Factors showed firmness, and sales were effected at fairly late rates; in some instances 1s. per qr. advance on the quotations of Monday last was realised. Foreign was firmly held, and there was a fair steady trade at the extreme prices of last week. Barley of all descriptions in improved demand, and rather more money obtainable for grinding and feeding sorts. Beans and peas each steady. The arrivals of oats from abroad for the week are again almost nil. Notwithstanding this, our dealers have been slow purchasers from granaries parcels, and we have experienced a dull, dragging sale, at prices scarcely equal to those of Monday last.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr.	Per Qr.		Per Qr.	Per Qr.
	s.	d.		s.	d.
WHEAT—			PEAS—		
Essex and Kent,			Grey	37	39
red, old	57	67	Maple	19	42
Ditto new	52	64	White	40	44
White, old	58	71	Boilers	40	44
"new	53	67	Foreign, white	39	43
Foreign red	55	65			
"white	57	72	RYE	32	34
BARLEY—			OATS—		
English malting	39	50	English feed	25	30
Chevalier	40	45	"potatoes	28	35
Distilling	40	45	Scotch feed	24	31
Foreign	30	44	"potatoes	29	35
MALT—			Irish black	21	24
Pale	72	78	"white	23	30
Chevalier	73	80	Foreign feed	21	27
Brown	53	68			
BEANS—			FLOUR—		
Ticks	41	44	Town made	53	57
Harrow	41	44	Country Marks	43	45
Small	43	48	Norfolk & Suffolk	43	45
Egyptian	—	—			

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